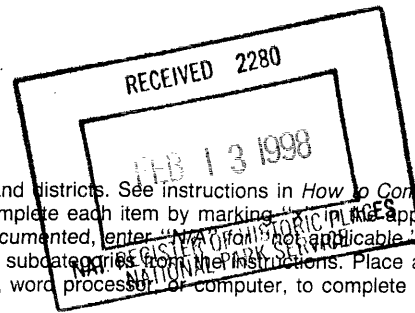


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for not applicable. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.



1. Name of Property

historic name Conoho Creek Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Conoho Creek, Salsbury Mill Branch and property lines south of NC 142 N/A not for publication

city or town Hassell ☒ vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Martin code 117 zip code 27841

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
 - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
 - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

3.12.98

Conoho Creek Historic District
Name of Property

Martin County, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>77</u>	<u>36</u>	buildings
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>5</u>	<u>29</u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>90</u>	<u>66</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

see continuation sheet

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

see continuation sheet

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

see continuation sheet

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood: Log, weatherboards
Brick

roof Metal: Tin, aluminum; Asphalt; wood

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Architecture

Social History

Ethnic Heritage : Black

Period of Significance

Ca. 1810-1947

Significant Dates

1890

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other




Name of repository:




Name of Property

County and State

Acreage of Property 2,800 acres more or less

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1   
Zone Easting Northing

2   

3 Zone Easting Northing

4

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

name/title Jennifer Bryant Langdale

organization _____ date August 15, 1997

street & number 7064 NW 52nd Terrace telephone (352)336-4282

city or town Gainesville state FL zip code 32653

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Conoho Creek Historic District
Martin County, North Carolina

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Narrative Description:

Encompassing a rural agricultural and woodland area containing approximately 2,800 acres, the Conoho Creek Historic District is located in the north central section of Martin County. The district begins at its southeast corner at a branch of Conoho Creek, commonly known as the Great Branch, which crosses North Carolina Highway 142 (NC 142) in a northerly course, four tenths of a mile west of the junction with North Carolina Highway 125. From here the district extends west along both sides of NC 142 approximately four miles into the rural community of Hassell. Conoho Creek and its Salsbury Mill Branch form the entire northern boundary of the district with the exception of a deviation at the Conoho Creek bridge along SR 1002 where the district line turns southward following present day property lines excluding a cluster of non-contributing mobile homes and brick ranch houses. The southern and western borders are created by property lines which range from 200 feet to a half mile south of NC 142.

The flat landscape of the district is almost equally divided between forests and open farmland. The sandy cultivated fields lie along both sides of NC 142. All of Conoho Creek is lined by wooded areas and there are some stands of trees on the southern property lines on the south side of NC 142 creating a buffer zone of woodlands on all but the south western edge of the district that adjoins Hassell.

The east-west course of NC 142 through the center of the district provides access to all but a few of the properties. Three other roads run north-south and intersect with NC 142. Robert Everett Road (SR 1313) is the easternmost branch and begins at NC 142 and extends south to the town of Gold Point. The Outterbridge-Everett Farm (#6) lies on its west side. Salisbury Road (SR 1312) lies to the west on NC 142 and parallels Robert Everett Road to Gold Point; however, there are no significant properties along it. Hassells Road (SR 1002), in the western quadrant of the district, is the only road in the district to cross NC 142. It roughly connects Hamilton to Gold Point and bisects NC 142 at an intersection once known as Dogsville crossroads or Ballard's Old Crossroads. NC 142 was an eighteenth-century post road and has always served as the primary transportation route through the area. All of the secondary roads have nineteenth-century origins and began as farm roads.

Cutting through the western quadrant of the district lies the remains of the Scotland Neck-Kinston branch of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad which was completed in 1890. Aside from the bridge crossing Conoho Creek, the tracks which ran northeast to southwest, are now gone, but the path of the rail right-of-way is still clearly visible.

Once a minor navigable waterway, Conoho Creek begins in the northwestern tip of Martin County and flows southeasterly into the Roanoke River. Along either side of the creek are swampy areas prone to year-round flooding. The two major branches of the creek, Salsbury Mill and Great Branch, extend south into the district and once provided power for water mills. These branches form portions of

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Conoho Creek Historic District
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the northwestern, eastern, and southern boundaries, respectively. There are also several streams which flow into Conoho Creek and meander through the district along the northern side of NC 142. Their banks are also generally surrounded by wooded areas. A few of these streams have been extended and dredged to create drainage ditches for the fields on both the north and south sides of NC 142. There are also a few drainage ditches which cut into the district from the south and are formed from tributaries of Collie Swamp which flows southerly into Pitt County.

Most of the properties on the north side of NC 142 extend north from the road to Conoho Creek, creating long, narrow parcels. Some larger properties extend north and south across both sides of NC 142. Those on the south side of the highway front on the road and vary in shape and size.

The community of Hassell, incorporated in 1903 with a current population of approximately 110, is located at the southwestern edge of the district. Aside from a few outlying properties, all early or late nineteenth-century, the town is not included in the district because it does not reflect the rural character of the surrounding countryside. However, its development, especially that associated with the coming of the Scotland Neck-Kinston branch of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad in 1890, which ran through the town, naturally had an effect on the agricultural and social history of the district.

Water, road, and rail transportation routes all contributed to the creation and development of the Conoho Creek Historic District. Its agricultural landscape has changed little throughout its period of significance, 1810-1947. The district and its collection of fields, farmhouses, outbuildings, schools, stores, cemeteries, roads, woodlands, and creeks exemplify a region which began in the plantation society of the nineteenth century, adapted to the rise in tenant farming after the Civil War and then modified its landscape to suit the needs of small independent farmers in the twentieth century.

The architectural character of the district ranges from major transitional Georgian/Federal and Greek Revival-style plantation properties to plain, independent farmsteads created in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The district includes seven antebellum plantation seats, one small, independent, late nineteenth-century farm, and five twentieth-century farmsteads. All contributing buildings and structures are frame, with the antebellum ones employing mortise-and-tenon construction. Brick piers are primarily used for foundations and chimneys. Antebellum houses are large, often two-story, with many stylish elements. These include the Outterbridge-Everett Farm (#6), the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis house (#4), the Sherrod-Best-Fleming Farm (#14), the Ballard-Hyman-Thomas Farm (#20), and the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks Farm (#30). The later twentieth-century farmhouses in comparison, are much smaller and unsophisticated in detail and workmanship. The late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century farmhouses such as the Cherry-Council House (#22) and the Haislip House (#27), were more often one-story.

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Conoho Creek Historic District
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All houses are oriented to NC 142 and their distance from the road varies from property to property. Field lines and forested areas appear to have remained much the same as they were 100 years ago. Only a few, such as the Sherrod-Best-Fleming Farm (#14) and the Haislip House (#27), show evidence of their original trees and shrubs. Formal landscaping features most often include magnolias, boxwoods, crepe myrtles, cedars, oaks, and sweet gums.

Many of the farms center around a domestic complex of buildings with additional agricultural buildings located nearby. Domestic dependencies within the district include smokehouses, corn barns, a milkhouse, a carriage house, privies, servant quarters, a washhouse, wells, and garages. Farm-associated structures are tobacco barns, packhouses, chicken coops, mule stables, and corn barns. Other historic resources within the district include several cemeteries, two schoolhouses, a general store, roads, mill ponds, woodlands, and agricultural fields.

The condition of the resources in the district varies. Most dwellings range from fair to excellent in condition and have experienced only minor alterations. In recent years, restoration and rehabilitation work was undertaken at the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks House (#30), the Sherrod-Best-Fleming House (#14), and the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House (#4). Outbuildings have often suffered from years of neglect and many have fallen into ruin.

Non-contributing buildings in the district include seven brick ranch houses, four mobile homes, numerous modern agricultural structures, and several buildings which have been severely altered or were built after 1946. A few non-contributing dwellings are located on larger parcels of land containing contributing dwellings such as the Outterbridge-Everett Tenant House (#6J) and the Coltrain-Roberson House (#8A).

Integrity Statement

With the encroachment of new residential, industrial, and commercial developments throughout eastern North Carolina, the rural historic landscape is quickly being minimized and, in places, destroyed. The Conoho Creek Historic District, however, is an exception to this trend. It still retains a unique blend of cultivated fields, forests, and historic structures. These buildings are connected to one another by a transportation network of roads and waterways that has changed little in 200 years. Highway 142, for example, has followed its present course since the eighteenth century. The field systems also cover nearly the same expanse of land that they did in the nineteenth century. Conoho Creek and its tributaries are outlined by wooded areas, which not only provide a buffer zone between the district and the surrounding countryside, it also creates a striking backdrop for the sweeping panorama of plowed fields dotted with historic farmhouses.

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Conoho Creek Historic District
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The district does include a fair number of non-contributing buildings, but most do not infringe on the historic character of the landscape. Many of the non-contributing structures are outbuildings which are now an integral part of the large farm complexes. There is also a significant cluster of brick ranch houses at the intersection of NC 142 and SR 1002. However, their presence in the district is mitigated by their unobtrusive scales. The overall historic agricultural setting, feeling, and association of the district conveys the physical reference to its historic significance.

Potential Archaeological Resources

Although the scope of this nomination did not include the investigation of potential archaeological resources, it is likely that the district does possess archaeological remains which have the potential to reveal information about its history and prehistory. The first inhabitants of Conoho Creek and this area were Native Americans, primarily of the Tuscarora, Pamlico, Coree Machapunga, and Bear River tribes. The earliest known white settlers in the district began to occupy this area in the mid-eighteenth century after the fertile farmlands along the Roanoke River became overpopulated and overused. Where these Native American and Anglo-American settlements occurred can only be gleaned from archaeological research.

Other potential archaeological investigations may involve the two mill sites on branches of Conoho Creek. Mounds of earth on either side of the Great Branch already suggest the location of the Bulter Mill which operated at this site as early as 1783. Also, the area around Conoho Creek may reveal information about the extent of navigation on the waterway as well as potential facts about the fishing and timber industry. It is known that all of the large antebellum farmsteads once supported slaves and slave houses which are no longer standing. Archaeological excavations can yield information about African-Americans, as well as about everyday life on an eighteenth- and nineteenth-century farm.

Inventory List

The inventory list for the historic district follows NC 142 from east to west beginning with the White property just past the Great Branch. Although the potential archeological mill site on the Great Branch is not addressed as a separate entry, it anchors a portion of the eastern boundary of the district and introduces its historical agricultural character. The inventory list detours south to SR's 1313, 1312, and 1002 as they intersect with NC 142.

This nomination was initially proposed after an intensive survey of Martin County was undertaken by Donna Dodenhoff in 1993. Utilizing the basic standards of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation office and Dodenhoff's original field notes, a field survey of all buildings within the proposed district was completed. The resulting property files include exterior photographs, historic information, and property sketch maps of all buildings, sites, and structures within the district. The historic documentation in these files was collected from public and private repositories, such as East

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Carolina University, Duke University, the North Carolina State Archives, and the Manning Collection at the Martin County Community College. Wills, deeds, U. S. census records, and newspapers were also utilized. The compilation of all these materials was essential in developing boundaries for the district, identifying period and level of significance, understanding integrity, and developing the context for the nomination as well as dating many of the structures.

In addition, an overall district sketch map is incorporated into the nomination to help illustrate the district. The sketch map was traced from Martin County tax maps. Following the inventory list, each site is numbered and individual resources within a complex are assigned a letter. Sketch maps of six of the most significant properties provide a more detailed view of the farm layouts.

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Resource Identity Key: Contributing (C) Non-Contributing (NC)
Property and Resource Types: Building (B) Site (S) Structure (ST) Object (O)

C NC P&R1) **William A. White, Jr. House:** S side of NC 142, .4 miles W of jct. with NC 125.

1 B House: c. 1971, brick ranch with enclosed garage on west end; parcel carved from Outterbridge-White Farm (#2) and now owned by William Alton White, Jr.

1 ST Equipment storage shelter: c. 1980; large open shelter set on posts with metal roof.

2) **Outterbridge-White Farm:** N and S sides of NC 142, .4 miles W of jct. with NC 125.

Stephen William Outterbridge (1824-1915) started this farm around 1848 when he inherited the land from his father, also named Stephen Outterbridge. The will noted that Stephen William had already picked this spot to build his home and the house itself was probably completed soon after his marriage to Susan May Andrews (1835-1922) in 1851. The property was once part of a much larger parcel owned by William Outterbridge (d. 1794), a settler who came to Martin County some time before its creation in 1774. Stephen W. Outterbridge, was a prominent farmer overseeing a 460-acre farmstead in the antebellum period. He also served two terms in the state legislature (1856 and 1864) and on the county school board (1885-1889). However, he is best known as an educator. Outterbridge and his wife, Susan, operated an academy at his home from around 1850 to 1885, when he moved to Robersonville where he continued to teach until his retirement in 1900. The house and 150 acres surrounding it was sold to Wherrie Alexander White in 1903. A Martin County native, White lived on the farm with his brother and sister until he married Neffie Jane Roebuck White (1887-1965) in 1913. Family tradition holds that White was one of the first farmers in the community to grow tobacco. The White family made few changes to the house since acquiring it. Unlike other farms in the district which are leased to tenants, this 205-acre homestead is still cultivated by members of the White family. The farm complex includes a substantial number of outbuildings including a rare sawn plank smokehouse (ca. 1850) with full dovetail notches.

Landscape: (See Sketch Map A) Dominated by agricultural fields, the Outterbridge-White Farm includes 205.2 acres extending from Conoho Creek on the north and east across NC 142 to a branch of the creek often referred to as the Great Branch south of the road. The southwestern border is formed by an old farm road which extends south to connect to North Carolina Highway 903.

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Because it is bordered on three sides by low-lying creek beds, the Outterbridge-White Farm is one of few in the district with a somewhat rolling rather than flat topography. Directly surrounding the house and across NC 142 from it are a series of fields which produce a variety of crops including cotton, corn, and peanuts. Through a break in a tree line at the northeastern quadrant of the property lies another series of fields. Along all of the creek beds are stands of large deciduous trees which extend out from the waterways at least 400 feet.

The house itself is located within fifty feet of NC 142. Surrounding it are a multitude of outbuildings, both domestic and agricultural. The most notable is the antebellum plank smokehouse located just off the northwest corner of the house. Along either side of a dirt farm road just to the east side of the house stands the remainder of the outbuildings which range in date from 1910 to the 1970s. The number and types of outbuildings which existed when the house was inhabited by the Outterbridges is unknown, although the 1860 census records show Stephen William as owning two slave houses on the property for his six slaves. The outbuildings closest to the house are the tenant house, packhouse, and garage. Continuing north on the road are the mule stable, grain bins, and equipment storage sheds. About two-tenths of a mile further down the road at the edge of a stand of trees are two early twentieth-century tobacco barns connected by a grading shed. According to a 1901 USGS map (Exhibit B), the property also once contained another house directly across from the main dwelling, as well as another house at the head of the farm road. Shading the house and outbuildings are several large pecan trees. A magnolia tree grows in the front yard.

Also on the Outterbridge-White property is a ca. 1930s tenant house (#20) located just west of the house on the south side of NC 142. Another small lot to the east of the house was carved from the farm in 1971. Here William Alton White, Jr. who tends the farm, constructed a brick ranch house (#1) in the early 1970s.

In an 1857 letter found in the Bryant Bennett papers at Duke University, Stephen wrote to his aunt (probably Sarah Outterbridge May who moved to Jackson, Tennessee in the second quarter of the nineteenth century) and described his new house and its setting. Apparently NC 142 originally ran north of this site and when Stephen built the house, he "turned the road; so my yard borders on the old road in the rear of my house, and on the new road in front." He chose his house site "...in sight of the place of my birth distant half mile on an elevated spot adorned with transplanted maple and elm trees also some few cedars..."

On the eastern edge of the property on the south side of NC 142 are the remnants of a mill which operated here as early as 1783. The mill branch was most often called the Great Branch or Butler's mill branch in late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century records. An 1863 map (Exhibit A) clearly shows a dam and large mill pond at this location. Today the branch flows northeast and is channeled

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under NC 142 through modern conduits emerging on the north side of the road. Before passing through the conduits, the stream flows past two large mounds of earth on either side of the creek. At the bottom on the creek bed between the mounds are several cut logs suggesting that at one time, there was some type of frame structure, perhaps a dam, spanning this section of the creek. South of the mounds, the trees are less dense and the land is flatter than other areas of the forest. This may have been the site of the mill pond.

C NC P&R

2A 1 B Outterbridge-White House: ca. 1850; This antebellum farmhouse combines the traditional form of the coastal cottage with simple elements of the Greek Revival style popular in Martin County by the 1850s. Characteristic of the coastal cottage is the building's double-sloped roof which extends to engage the front porch that wraps around to the east side of the house. The porch wall is sheathed with flush horizontal boards accentuating its function as a warm weather sitting area. The remainder of the house is clad with plain weatherboards. The side porch shelters both a parlor entrance and an enclosed end bay. A portion of it was removed in the post-World War II period to accommodate a carport. At that time, the porch's wooden posts were replaced with wrought iron supports. Other exterior elements include stepped shoulder chimneys with broad bases and freestanding stacks on each flush gable end, small loft windows flanking the stack on the west end, tapered rake boards, plain but broad corner pilasters with simple capitals, six-over-six sash windows in wide, two-part surrounds, and a handsome entrance with paneled sidelights. In the early twentieth century, the wood shingle roof was replaced with tin.

In keeping with coastal cottages of the 1850s vintage, the interior follows a one-room deep, center hall plan extended by rear shed rooms. An enclosed hall stair rises to two finished loft rooms. Originally plastered, the interior retains some of its Greek Revival woodwork, principally the doors of two vertical flat panels, chair rails, and mantels. In the early twentieth century, the White family replaced the freestanding kitchen with an attached rear kitchen/dining ell. An enclosed porch extends along the east side.

2B 1 B Smokehouse: ca. 1850; This antebellum log smokehouse is located just off the northwest corner of the main house. Secured at the corners with fully dovetailed notches, it is an unusually late example of sawn plank construction. The log kitchen and smokehouse located nearby on the c. 1810 Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks

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C NC P&R

farm (#30) are the only other extant examples of this type of construction in the district. The tall gable-front building has a tin roof with deep eaves. Its board and batten door enters into an open, floored space with overhead beams from which smoked hams as well as other smoked meat and fish were hung. A bin on the south side was used for salting hams and shoulders.

- 2C 1 B Garage: ca. 1920, frame, front gable building sheathed with weatherboards; contains a garage opening on west end and a storage area on the east end accessed by a door; an open air shed roof addition extends to the east side.
- 2D 1 B Tenant house: This ca. 1910 frame, front gable building sheathed with weatherboards is called the bellhouse by present owner Neely White because the farm bell was once situated on top of it. It is presently used for storage. Its location just next to the main house and its central door facing the dwelling along with the brick piers and interior brick chimney flue suggests that it most likely served as a tenant or servant house.
- 2E 1 B Packhouse: ca. 1930, frame, front gable building sheathed with weatherboards; rests on brick piers; contains a central door and a barn door opening on south side; two six-over-six windows on north elevation; shed additions to both sides.
- 2F 1 B Equipment storage shelter: ca. 1910, frame, side gable; sheathed with weatherboards now covered with corrugated metal; a large shed roof addition extends across front; interior brick chimney flue suggests that it may have been another tenant or servant house.
- 2G 1 ST Chicken House: ca. 1930, frame with shed roof; sheathed with a hodgepodge of flush vertical and horizontal boards; crude off-center door with small hole for foul to enter.
- 2H 1 B Mule Stable: ca. 1910, front gable, two-stories; frame with shed additions to each side; sheathed with weatherboards; central barn door opening with another door above in gable; stalls along with side of central interior passage.
- 2I 1 B Tobacco Barns: ca. 1925, two frame tobacco barns sheathed with tar paper; front gable with long, side gable grading shed connecting them; located at the edge of the field two-tenths of a mile from the main house.

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#	C	NC	P&R	
2J	1		S	Mill Site: ca. late eighteenth-century to late nineteenth-century; two mounds of dirt on either side of creek branch; several cut logs lie across the stream between the two mounds of earth; to the south of the mounds, the trees are less dense than other areas of the woods suggesting that this was once the millpond. It is not known how long this mill operated, but the census shows a miller living next to the Outterbridges as late as 1880.
2K		2	ST	Grain bins: ca. 1970; two round, corrugated metal grain bins.
2L		1	ST	Equipment Storage Shed: ca. 1950; frame; sheathed in weatherboards and corrugated metal; shed roof.
2M		1	ST	Equipment Storage Shelter: ca. 1970; large, open shelter used to store farm equipment; sheathed with corrugated metal and set on posts.
2N		1	ST	Bulk tobacco barn: ca. 1970; metal shed roof shelter on posts.
2O	1		B	Outterbridge-White tenant house: ca. 1930s; front-gable bungalow with attached porch; sheathed with weatherboards; Craftsman elements include tapered posts on brick pier porch supports, overhanging eaves with exposed joists, and double six-over-six sash windows along the main facade; enclosed porch room at the rear of the house; built by Wherrie Alexander White as a tenant house for his farm; once occupied by Wherrie's son, William Alton White; located one-tenth of a mile west of Outterbridge-White House (#2A) on south side of NC 142; yard contains several large cedar trees.
2P	1		B	Packhouse: ca. 1930; front gable; board and batten siding with corrugated metal replacement; side gable weatherboard addition to one side; located next to Outterbridge-White tenant house.
3) Agricultural buildings				S side of NC 142, .4 miles E of jct. with SR 1313.
3A		1	ST	Equipment storage shelter: ca. 1970; open shelter set on wooden posts with metal roof; associated with Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House (#4).
3B		1	ST	Grain bins connected by grain elevator: ca. 1960, three metal grain silos connected by a several story grain elevator; associated with Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House (#4).

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Martin County, North CarolinaSection number 7 Page 11**4) Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House** S side of NC 142, .2 miles E of jct. with SR 1313.

Like the Outterbridge-White Farm (#2) located within one-half mile east of this house, the land on which the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House stands once belonged to William Outterbridge, an early settler in Martin County. The original I-house section of the home with its Georgian and Federal details and early cut nails suggests that it was constructed around 1815. The builder may have been William's son Stephen (b. 1755) who purchased this land in 1801 from Burr Outterbridge, his younger brother. Local tradition holds that Burr constructed the nearby Outterbridge-Everett House (#6A) around 1810. It is believed that Burr did not occupy this house, even though at the time of his death in 1819, the land was once again in his hands as he willed it to his son, also named Stephen (1800-1848). It is possible that the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis house was constructed by Burr's son, Stephen, slightly later than the architectural details suggest--perhaps in 1823 when he married Winiford Forrest (1804-1862). Whatever the case, Stephen William Outterbridge, of the Outterbridge-White Farm and Winiford and Stephen's oldest child, was born in this house in 1825. Stephen was a wealthy farmer owning sixteen slaves in 1840. He died in 1848 leaving Winiford in the house with her three children. With the help of eleven slaves, Winiford operated a farm with 300 improved acres in 1850--a remarkably large farm for this area and one matched in size only by Stephen's brother, Joseph, who lived in the nearby Outterbridge-Everett House (#6A).

By 1860 Winiford lived in the house with her daughter Mary Eliza (1835-1914) and Mary's husband, William S. Briley. At only twenty-five years of age, Briley was a prosperous farmer declaring a \$3,000 farm value in 1860. His investment of \$200 in farm equipment and machinery made him among the more advanced and progressive farmers in the county. With the work of his fourteen slaves, the farm produced, among other crops, 1,500 bushels of corn and eleven bales of cotton. As a reflection of his affluence, it is likely that Briley had the fashionable Greek Revival section of the house added in the 1850s. In 1867 Briley sold the farm, totaling 179 acres, to Kenneth Edmondson. Briley died sometime between 1870 and 1880. His wife Mary lived with her two children nearby on a sixty-acre farm.

The house changed hands a number of times in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. B. L. C. Bryan bought farm sometime in the 1870s and enlarged it to 275 acres. In 1884 he sold it L. D. H. Purvis. In 1909, Purvis and his third wife, Amanda Scott Purvis, moved to Tennessee and sold the farm to his brother, Fernando Staton Purvis (1862-1927) who lived in the house until his death. His widow, Mary Everett Purvis, left the farm to her Everett heirs. They, in turn, sold it to Sherwood L. Roberson and his wife, Evelyn Barnhill Roberson, in 1931. In 1967 the house and farm changed hands again when it was purchased by William Green and his brother, C. L. Green. For a number of years after this, the house stood vacant and began to deteriorate. In 1995, however, Arthur and Barbara Wompler began restoring the home after purchasing it through the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina.

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which placed protective covenants on the building to ensure its preservation. The 249 acres surrounding the house is still owned and farmed by William Green.

Landscape: Although the house tract has been parceled out of the original farmstead, the remainder of the surrounding farmland is intact. The nearly 250-acre tract extends across both sides of NC 142 and is bounded on the north by Conoho Creek, the east by the Outterbridge-White Farm (#2), the south by a branch of the creek known as the mill branch, and the west by the Coltrain-Roberson Farm (#8). A large portion of the farm along the creek on both the north and south sides of NC 142 is forested. A stand of replanted pine trees lies directly behind the house. The remainder of the land is tilled soil. On the north side of the road, a small branch of the creek and a drainage ditch created from it extends through the center of the farm.

Land use in the past was quite possibly similar to the present except that the fields were planted in a variety of crops rather than the standard cash crops of today namely cotton, peanuts, and tobacco. In 1880 farm owner, B. L. C. Bryan, for example, planted thirty acres of cotton along with fifty acres of corn, four acres of oats and Irish potatoes, several acres of peas, sweet potatoes, and wheat, and most likely, a large vegetable garden. On his farm, he also kept thirty hogs, eleven cows, and fifty chickens. Perhaps, the most significant agricultural feature which is absent today is Bryan's orchard of 150 apple and twelve peach trees.

To the east of the house stands a mobile home which the Womplers will occupy until the restoration on the house is complete. Just next to the mobile home is a large, rectangular, ca. 1920, packhouse. A rare surviving brick-lined well probably dug in the early nineteenth-century is located just off the rear of the house. There are also two separate cemeteries in the fields south of the house. One contains markers for the Outterbridge and Briley families while the other has one Purvis burial and evidence of several other unmarked graves. The location and types of historic outbuildings are possibly unknown. It is known, however, that William S. Briley had four slave houses on the property in 1860. At least one of these houses was located just across the mill branch to the south of the house at the site mentioned in a letter from Stephen William Outterbridge to his aunt in 1857. Stephen recounts a visit to the house where former slaves, Moses and Fanny, lived. Their quarters were apparently on the site of Burr Outterbridge's first home which had vanished by the middle of the nineteenth century. The same letter mentions a gate which once led to the main house and a stand of pine trees once located near the house. Early twentieth-century road maps (Exhibit B and D) show several other houses on this property including one on the corner of NC 142 and SR 1313 and two directly across from the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis house on the north side of NC 142.

Aside from a row of four large cedar trees located between the house and NC 142, there are no other significant plantings around the house.

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C NC P&R

4A 1

B

Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House: c. 1815, 1850s; The original rear section of this house is an early nineteenth-century I-house with Georgian and Federal details. In contrast to the more customary nineteenth-century building practice of overhauling a structure's older section, a new Greek Revival addition was simply appended to the front of the original home in the 1850s. The expansion provides a clear contrast between building methods and styles of the early- and mid-nineteenth-century houses in Martin County.

The antebellum expansion involved raising the roof of the earlier house to incorporate a finished loft and the newer front section. The new wood shingle roof, now replaced with tin, was finished with gable returns and wide eaves trimmed with elaborate brackets--an Italianate element incorporated in other Greek Revival houses built in Martin County during the 1850s. A flat-roofed portico, also with bracketed eaves, shelters a trabeated, double-leaf entrance with raised panels. The fluted pilasters at both the first and second levels of the portico wall suggest that it was once supported by fluted columns. Ghost marks indicate that the portico also had a balustrade at both levels. Photographs show that this balustrade was still in place as late as the 1980s. Additional exterior distinctions between the old and new include the paneled pilasters framing the newer section, the wide surrounds of the classical Greek Revival six-over-six sash windows as opposed to attenuated six-over-six sash windows with Federal two-part molded surrounds in the older section, and the double paved shouldered chimney on the rear in contrast with the single stepped shouldered chimney in the front.

The older house, built with heavy timber frame, hewn sills, and half-log joists, consisted of a one-room deep, center hall floor plan with a two-room rear shed and an enclosed winder stair rising from the front of the hall to the second story bedrooms. The newer front section utilized sawn timbers and follows this same floor plan with one notable exception. Its hall contains an open, rather than a closed stair that winds upward to a habitable attic. The result is a spectacular soaring stair well space. Elegantly ornamented with wave-pattern steps and brackets, the stair has three transverse landings, the second of which affords access to the second story hall of the older section.

Interior moldings in the two sections also reveal a sharp contrast in styles. The older section displays both Georgian and transitional Georgian/Federal style mantels with friezes of three flat panels surmounted by stacked shelves. Markedly

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Georgian, the second floor stair has a graceful newel with rounded top and square balusters. The first floor rooms have flat-paneled wainscoting with a two-part chair rail topped with an ovolo molding. Windows and doors have three-part mitred surrounds. In contrast, the newer Greek Revival section has interiors of uninterrupted wall spaces trimmed with wide two-part baseboards. Windows have molded aprons and doors, four raised panels, with both encased with fluted surrounds with cornerblocks and plinths. Mantels are austere pilaster-and-frieze configurations.

C NC P&R

- 4B 1 B Packhouse: ca. 1920; frame, two stories; sheathed with corrugated metal over original weatherboards; six-over-six sash windows.
- 4C 1 S Outterbridge-Briley Cemetery: Located to the south of the house in a field; in poor condition with only a few legible markers; includes at least six graves: George Thomas Outterbridge; Mary W. Briley, daughter of William S. and M. E. Briley (b. and d. 1855) and several other Outterbridge infants.
- 4D 1 S Purvis Cemetery: Located in the stand of replanted pine trees behind the house; surrounded by an iron fence; contains only one legible grave: Derbert Osmond, son of F. S. and M. E. Purvis, 1896-1898.
- 4E 1 ST Well: ca. second half of nineteenth century; Brick-lined well located just off the rear western corner of the house.
- 4F 1 B Mobile home: ca. 1990, side gable mobile home.

5) George Benjamin Roberson House: W side of SR 1313 at jct. with NC 142.

- 5A 3 B George Benjamin Roberson House: ca. 1973; brick ranch with a metal two-car garage and storage shelter behind the house; parcel carved from Coltrain-Roberson Farm (#8).

6) Outterbridge-Everett Farm: W and E sides of SR 1313, .2 miles S of jct. with NC 142.

Like the Outterbridge-White Farm (#2) and the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House (#4), this early nineteenth-century I-house was constructed on land once owned by William Outterbridge. It is believed to have been built by William's son, Burr around 1810. Burr was a fairly prosperous farmer who owned ten slaves in 1800 and twelve in 1810. At Burr's death in 1819, he willed his "house and plantation" to

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his wife Drusilla. By 1850 Burr's son, Joseph (b. 1810), his wife Nancy Bowers Outterbridge (1816-1901), and their six children lived on the farm. The 1850 census shows that Joseph owned twelve slaves and his farm equaled 1,000 acres. Of this 1,000 acres, 300 were improved--an amount matched in the district only by his sister-in-law, Winiford Outterbridge who lived in the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House (#4). On his farm, Joseph cultivated the usual variety of crops including wheat, corn, oats, Irish and sweet potatoes, peas, and beans. By 1860 Joseph's widow, Nancy, had divided the farm leaving her with 450 acres and two slaves. In 1880 Joseph and Nancy's son Julian ("Jule") (1848-1921) lived in the house with his wife Della (1854-1924). Nancy resided nearby on the T. H. Johnson farm. Jule's farm equaled nearly 200 acres in 1880. Beginning in 1884, Jule began to face financial difficulties and was forced to sell the farm to Lester Brown and Jim Coffield around 1900. In the early twentieth century, Howard Lister Everett and his brother, Nonie Cleveland "Nun" Everett, bought the farm as a part of their effort to consolidate land holdings in the region. The house has been maintained as tenant dwelling throughout most of the twentieth century. When the brothers' holdings were divided among their heirs, Nun Everett's son, Willie B., inherited the Outterbridge Farm. It is currently owned by Willie's widow, Annie Louise Everett. The farm surrounding the house is tended by tenants.

Landscape: (See Sketch Map B) Encompassing 259.6 acres, the Outterbridge-Everett Farm is a large, torch-shaped parcel of land composed of a wide northwestern section which funnels southeasterly into a long, narrow point. Parts of its northern and eastern borders are branches of Conoho Creek, the most prominent of these being the Great Branch. This creek runs east into Conoho Creek, and in the nineteenth century, its mouth was the site of a water mill operated by the Butler family. In Burr Outterbridge's 1819 will, this creek was the dividing line between land inherited by his sons, Joseph and Stephen. The present day southern and western boundaries are marked by drainage ditches. The property extends across both sides of SR 1313 which is locally known as the Robert Everett Road. Land use is divided nearly equally between cultivated fields and forested land. The majority of the woodlands occurs in the southwestern half of the property. A twenty-nine-acre tract of forest land in the center of the farm is owned by H&R Timber Company of Pinetown, North Carolina. The expansive fields are planted primarily in cotton and peanuts.

The house itself is sited on the edge of a plowed field in the center of the northern property line. While situated within a few feet of the Robert Everett Road, the house is oriented to NC 142 and most of its outbuildings are located just across SR 1313. A driveway completely encircles the house and the yard is dotted with only a few remarkable landscaping features, namely a large cedar just off the northwest porch corner and a hydrangea bush on the opposite end. On the western side of the house stands the corn barn, gas pump, garage, and smokehouse. Just across the road to the east and arranged around a large grassy field is the mule stable, two equipment shelters, and the tobacco barns. Forming a corner along the northern edge of the property line and turning down in front of the mule stable along on the east side of the road are remnants of a post and wire fence with a line of cedar trees. Perhaps this grassy

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field was once completely fenced and used as the livestock yard. A ca. 1940s tenant house probably associated with the Outterbridge-Everett Farm with ca. 1920s outbuildings is located on the property to the south of the main house on the Robert Everett Road.

An 1863 map of the area (Exhibit A) shows that SR 1313 which divides the house from its outbuildings, once ran on the opposite side of this house. By 1901 the road bed was in its present location although it was not paved until the 1970s.

C NC P&R

6A 1 B Outterbridge-Everett House: ca. 1810; A pristine example of a large early nineteenth-century farmhouse, the Outterbridge-Everett House is composed of a two-story single-pile block enlarged on the rear by a succession of ells, enclosed porches, and additions. The side-gabled structure's most striking features are its unusually well-crafted exterior moldings, a rarity in Martin County farmhouses. The house is sheathed with beaded weatherboards. Paneled corner pilasters rise to scalloped caps and the flush gable ends are trimmed with two-part tapered rake boards. Two-part molded surrounds enclose attenuated windows that most likely held nine-over-six sash, but have been replaced by six-over-six and four-over-four sash. The three-bay main facade has a central entrance with a five raised panel door. Ghost marks indicate that the entrance was once sheltered by a gabled portico. A replacement front porch with chamfered posts wraps around the east side of the house. Broad based chimneys with paved shoulders and tumbled weatherings rise from each gable end. Their freestanding stacks have corbeled caps.

The interior, with its narrow central hall and enclosed stair rising from the front, provides a rare look at an intact Federal interior in Martin County. The woodwork includes flat-paneled wainscots with reeded chair rails, two-part molded door and window surrounds, and handsome mantels, the one in the east parlor having fluted pilasters and stacked shelf ornamented with delicate vertical and diagonal reeding. The second floor mantels are simple with crossetted friezes and stacked shelves. Walls throughout the house retain their horse hair plaster with the exception of the stairwell and upper hall which have wide flush beaded board sheathing. The doors have six raised panels, many retaining original H-and-L hinges. The commodious rear ell has been extended twice.

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#	C	NC	P&R	
6B	1		B	Corn Barn: ca. 1890; frame, front gable barn with central door; set on brick piers and sheathed with weatherboards; open shed additions to both sides.
6C	1		O	Gas pump: ca. 1940s.
6D	1		B	Garage: ca. 1930; frame, front gable two car garage with shed roof addition to one side which was once used as a chicken coop.
6E	1		B	Smokehouse: ca. 1890; frame, front gable smokehouse with a central door; set on brick piers and sheathed with weatherboards; open shed additions to both sides.
6F	1		B	Mule stable: ca. 1930; frame, front gable, two-level barn; sheathed with corrugated metal; central barn opening with through passage and stalls on either side; door to north side of barn opening and another above it; shed additions to both sides. Situated across SR 1313 from the main house.
6G	1		B	Tobacco barns connected by grading shed: ca. 1930; two front-gable board-and-batten tobacco barns connected by long gable roof grading shed. Situated across SR 1313 from the main house.
6H		2	ST	Equipment Storage Sheds: ca. 1960; open structures set on poles with metal roof; used to store large farm equipment. Situated across SR 1313 from the main house.
6I		1	B	Barn: ca. 1930s; small, frame, front gable barn; sheathed with weatherboards; in deteriorated condition.
6J		1	B	Outterbridge-Everett Tenant House: ca. 1940s; front gable, three-bay house of concrete block construction; overhanging eaves; two interior brick flues; small, one-bay attached porch; shed addition to rear; on Outterbridge-Everett Farm, on E. side SR 1313; 1928 map (Exhibit D) shows a house on or near this site which may explain the earlier outbuildings behind the house.
6K	1		B	Shed: ca. 1925; frame, front gable outbuilding sheathed with weatherboards; central door; possibly a corn barn; located behind Outterbridge-Everett Tenant House.

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- 6L 1 B Shed: ca. 1925; frame, front gable outbuilding with a central door flanked by a narrow window set horizontally; sheathed with weatherboards; located behind Outterbridge-Everett Tenant House.
- 6M 1 B Tractor Barn: ca. 1925, frame, front gable barn with central doors on the first and second levels; overhanging eaves; sheathed with weatherboards and replacement corrugated metal; located behind Outterbridge-Everett Tenant House.
- 7) **Everett House:** E side of SR 1313, .4 miles S of jct. with NC 142.
2 B House: ca. 1973; brick ranch with carport on south end; prefabricated utility shed in back yard; lot carved from Outterbridge-Everett Farm (#6).

8) **Coltrain-Roberson Farm:** N side of NC 142 at jct. with SR 1313.

While the main residence on this 113-acre farm is a non-contributing building in this district, the property still retains a remarkable collection of early- and mid-twentieth century agricultural and domestic outbuildings. The site once contained a nineteenth-century home which may have been occupied by William S. Briley and his family after they sold the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House (#4) in 1867 and moved to another home nearby. George Coltrain bought the farm and house in 1910 from Loren A. Briley, son of William and Mary Eliza Briley. Coltrain operated a farm here until his death in 1962. His daughter, Lillian Coltrain Roberson, inherited the property and replaced the old home with a new brick ranch a few feet north of the original dwelling's foundations. The farm is still cultivated by tenants.

Landscape: (See Sketch Map C) The 113-acre farm extends across both sides of NC 142 and is bordered on the north by a branch of Conoho Creek and on the east by William Green's land which was once the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis Farm. In the 1970s, Lillian and her husband gave their son, George Roberson, a small parcel of land across from their house where he built a brick ranch (#5). At one time there was a tenant house just past this new ranch on SR 1313. Lillian Roberson remembers a row of cedar trees along the southern property line which is a drainage ditch just in front of the Outterbridge-Everett House.

Although George Coltrain's house is gone, several outbuildings surrounding the house date to the early twentieth century when he lived here. Just off the northwest corner of the house in dense undergrowth partially surrounded by a post and wire fence, is a grouping of four outbuildings--a mule stable, packhouse, and two tobacco barns. They are believed to be the oldest on the property. A large oak tree planted by Lillian's brothers when they were boys (c. 1915) stands at one corner of this yard. The farm's well is located under this shade tree. Directly behind the house is another early outbuilding--a

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diminutive milkhouse which was moved from the western side of the original house. The majority of the other older outbuildings are sited to the east of the house and include a packhouse, several storage barns or sheds, and tobacco barns. Modern structures include a garage, a bulk tobacco barn, a large metal shop, and an equipment storage shelter.

C NC P&R

- 8A 1 B House: ca. 1967; brick ranch with one-car garage on west end.
- 8B 1 B Packhouse: ca. 1930, frame, front gable packhouse sheathed with corrugated metal; three entrance doors; window flanking central opening; shed additions to each side.
- 8C 1 B Tobacco barns connected by grading shed: ca. 1925; two frame tobacco barns sheathed with weatherboards then later covered with corrugated metal; brick foundation and brick flue; one with shed addition to side; connected by a long, gable-roof grading shed.
- 8D 1 B Barn: ca. 1940; front gable storage barn with shed addition to side; sheathed with corrugated metal; constructed by George Coltrain.
- 8E 1 O Bell: ca. 1920s; farm bell set on wooden platform on tall posts; inscription, "No. 20 Yoke, Theo. S. Bell Co. Hillsboro O."
- 8F 1 ST Milkhouse: ca. 1920; small, square, front gable milkhouse or dairy; board-and-batten siding and tin roof; central door; set on concrete blocks; moved to this location behind the brick ranch house from the west side of the original house.
- 8G 1 B Packhouse: ca. 1920; frame, front gable with board-and-batten siding and central door on both first and second levels; located in fenced area just behind the house in dense undergrowth.
- 8H 1 B Mule Stable and corn barn: This ca. 1920 long, narrow, side-gable structure was built in four parts and is located just behind the house in an overgrown fenced area. The original central section has a brick foundation with a central barn door opening and stalls inside. It is constructed with large flush plank boards. The second section probably functioned as a corn barn. It has two doors and is sheathed with weatherboards. On the other side of the central section is a side gable roof, corrugated metal addition.

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#	C	NC	P&R
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			There is also a metal shed addition to the south end which extends outside of the post and wire fence.
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8I	1	B	Packhouse: ca. 1925; frame, sheathed in corrugated metal over weatherboards with a shed addition to the side; central barn door opening.
8J	1	B	Barn: ca. 1920; frame, front gable; board-and-batten siding; shed addition to side; its deteriorated condition renders its noncontributing.
8K	1	B	Tobacco Barn: ca. 1930; frame board and batten; severely altered with metal shed roof addition on front and metal side addition.
8L	1	ST	Shed: ca. 1950; shed roof storage shelter; sheathed with corrugated fiberglass.
8M	1	B	Shed: ca. 1950; shed roof shelter; sheathed with corrugated metal; built by George Coltrain.
8N	1	B	Garage: ca. 1975; side gable garage sheathed with vinyl siding.
8O	1	ST	Well: ca. 1980; wooden box with trough to one side; metal pump reads, "Made in Canada"; Lillian Roberson had the well box constructed and ordered the pump in recent years although this is the site of the property's original well.
8P	1	ST	Equipment storage shed: ca. 1975; L-shaped structure which houses peanut dryers; post construction with metal sheathing.
8Q	1	B	Shop: ca. 1980; metal trapezoidal structure with large central cargo doors; used as a shop and storage for large equipment.
8R	1	ST	Hog pens: ca. 1970; frame, side gable structures; in poor condition.
8S	2	ST	Grain bins: ca. 1960, round, metal grain bins.
8T	1	ST	Bulk tobacco barn: ca. 1970, shed roof covering over entrance to metal barn.
8U	1	B	Mobile home: on N side of NC 142 at jct. with SR 1313.

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9) **Goodrich Tobacco Packhouse:** N side of NC 142, .2 miles W of jct. with SR 1313.

1 B Packhouse: ca. 1930; front gable packhouse sheathed corrugated metal over its original weatherboards; central barn door on first level; shed addition to side now in ruins; once site of Thomas E. Goodrich's farm house which was recently destroyed; circular drive and large trees still remain.

10) **Manning Farm:** N side of NC 142, .1 mile E of jct. with SR 1312.

This 110-acre farm contains the ca. 1915 home of Thad and Florence Manning ,along with four outbuildings of the same period, and one antebellum building which suggests that an earlier dwelling may have once stood here. The Manning's sold their home in 1931 and the house was rented for many years. It now stands vacant, but the land surrounding it is still cultivated by tenants.

Landscape: The property itself is a long, narrow 110-acre parcel which is bounded by Conoho Creek one mile to the north and NC 142 on the south. About half of the property lies in cultivated fields while portions of the land bordering Conoho Creek is forested. There is also a central plot of reforested land.

A shed is located off the northeastern corner of the house while the remaining outbuildings are situated down a sandy road to the west of the dwelling. Although the yard was probably once landscaped, there are few remnants aside from a large, shady oak tree behind the house.

C NC P&R

10A 1 B Manning House: ca. 1915; This high, hipped-roof dwelling is a mix of both Craftsman and Victorian styles popular across the South in the early twentieth century. The house has stood vacant for many years, but is in stable condition. Like many vernacular Victorian homes, this house has a balanced three bay facade with two-over-two vertical sash windows and a diamond-shaped window in a central cross gable. The hipped-roof is topped with metal cresting. Reminiscent of the Craftsman style, the attached porch is supported by simple post-over-piers and the ceiling joists are exposed in the overhanging eaves.

Sheathed with beaded boards, the interior follows a center hall, double pile plan with flanking interior chimneys supplying fireplaces to the four rooms of the main block. A rear kitchen with board and batten siding and an interior flue chimney is linked to the main house by a screened-in breezeway.

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- | # | C | NC | P&R |
|---|---|----|---|
| 10B | 1 | | B Packhouse: ca. 1915; front gable packhouse with side gable addition; sheathed in weatherboards and later covered with tarpaper and battens; central door with flanking window; shed addition has a large open barn door. |
| 10C | 1 | | B Mule barn: c. 1840s; side gable with off-center barn door entrance; original section is frame with hand-hewn sills; evidence of white-washing still remains near roofline; entire north end has been removed in order to store large farm equipment; twentieth-century shed addition to rear; sheathed with weatherboards. |
| 10D | 2 | | B Tobacco barns: ca. 1915; front-gable tobacco barns sheathed with flushboards then covered with tarpaper. |
| 10F | 1 | | B Shed: ca. 1915; side gable frame sheathed with corrugated metal; off-center door. |
| 11) Purvis Tobacco Barns: E side of unnamed dirt road at jct. of NC 142 and SR 1002. | | | |
| 11A | 1 | | B Packhouse: ca. 1920; front gable packhouse; sheathed in weatherboards and later covered with tarpaper; shed additions to each side; central door flanked by four-over-four sash window; on a 199-acre parcel once part of a 500-acre farm belonging to A. W. Salsbury; land inherited by Augustus "Gus" Salsbury (1875-1934) who lived in the Salsbury House (#15) across the road; land now owned and farmed by Dalton Purvis. |
| 11B | 1 | | B Tobacco barns connected by grading shed: ca. 1920; two front gable tobacco barns connected by long, side gable open grading shed; flushboards covered with tarpaper and battens; located to the northwest of the packhouse further down the dirt road and part of same land parcel. |
| 12) Salsbury House: At jct. of NC 142 and SR 1312. | | | |
| | 1 | | B Salsbury House: ca. 1915; severally altered with only the rear two rooms remaining of a once much larger home; retains weatherboarded exterior, wide cornice, central interior brick chimney, and narrow beaded board interior; belonged to Augustus "Gus" W. (1875-1934) and Lessie Everett Salsbury (1883-1973); occupied by Lessie until her death; now used to store farm equipment. |
| 13) Mobile home: S side of NC 142, .2 miles W of jct. with SR 1312. | | | |
| | 2 | | B Mobile home with prefabricated utility shed in back yard. |

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Martin County, North CarolinaSection number 7 Page 23**14) Sherrod-Best-Fleming Farm:** S side of NC 142, 1.2 miles E of jct. with SR 1002.

This transitional Federal/Greek Revival farmhouse is believed to have been built by John J. Sherrod (1800-1868) around 1830. Family tradition holds that in 1830, Nancy Jane Sherrod was the first child of John and Elizabeth Sherrod to be born in the house. A prosperous planter, John Sherrod owned over forty slaves in 1840. The sixth generation of Sherrods to live in northwestern Martin County, John was firmly entrenched in its plantation society. Sherrod's prosperity undoubtedly prompted him to seek a more fashionable setting in which to display his status. In 1843 he purchased a tract of land east of Hamilton and constructed a new, fashionable Greek Revival style home known as Sherrod Grove. John gave his old house and farm to his daughter, Nancy Jane Sherrod Best (1830-1911) and her husband, William Edward Best (1836-1880). In 1860 the Bests had a moderately prosperous farm of 500 acres worked by four slaves. Their real estate assets totaled \$3,300 and their personal property equaled \$5,000. By 1880 the Bests had a farm production value of \$5,000--much more than most other farmers along the Williamston-Tarboro Road. While William and Nancy cultivated the typical crops of corn, peas, potatoes, wheat, oats, peaches and apples, they also produced seventy bales of cotton--one of the largest amounts in the township. William and Nancy's daughter, Mary Elizabeth "Lizzie" Best (b. 1861) inherited the house and lived in it with her husband, William Alphonza Fleming (1854-1918) and their seven children. Eventually Lizzie divided her land and gave the house to her oldest son, Llewellyn Best Fleming (1882-1961). Since he and his wife, Janie Jones Fleming (1888-1965), had no children, the farm was sold out of the family after their deaths. In the 1980s Daisy and Tom Etheridge bought the property and restored the house. They lease the house and farm to tenants.

Landscape: (See Sketch Map D) The house and farm parcel totals 236 acres, one of the largest properties in the district, and extends from Conoho Creek on the north across NC 142 to a point one-half mile south from the road. A drainage ditch forms a portion of the western border and cuts through the central and southern section of the property. About half of the land is forested while the remaining area is planted in cash crops such as cotton and peanuts.

From deed and census records, it appears that from 1860 to around 1920, the farm's acreage equaled approximately 500 acres. A 1922 subdivision map of Lizzie Fleming's property shows that the farm was divided into six different parcels. The property once stretched nearly a mile along both sides of NC 142. Its eastern border on the north side of the road was a canal cut from Conoho Creek. The map shows an "old avenue" running along the west side of the main house to an unknown point south. A row of cedar trees marks this road today. The map also notes some geographic features of the land including "Bull Hill," a knoll now on another parcel of land on the north side of the road. There are also branches of the creek which are no longer discernible, such as one which once ran just to the west of the house on the north side of the road. Houses which were once on the property are also shown on the sketch. The main two-story farmhouse with its rear ell is clearly visible near the center of the property. To the south

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of it along the "old avenue" is a one-story home with two exterior end chimneys and an addition also with a chimney. Other structures on the map include another one-story house with an ell to the west of the main house at the site where today stands the one and one-half story Fleming House (#16). Across the road were several small houses with single chimneys which may have been slave or tenant houses. A tenant house stands at one of these spots today.

The yard directly around the house contains the best example of historic decorative landscaping features in the district. Plantings include a line of pines and cedars across the back of the house and along the "old avenue" to NC 142 suggesting that perhaps at one time a fence surrounded the main house lot. There are also several crepe myrtles and pecan trees in the yard along with a huge magnolia just off the northwest corner of the house. Several large boxwoods line the front of the house. A grassy lawn spreads out from the house to NC 142. On the east side of the house stands a wash house and the well. To the rear is the smokehouse and garage. A dirt road on the east side of the house links NC 142 to other agricultural outbuildings which include a shop, chicken coop, and grain bins. At one time in the late nineteenth century, there was also an orchard of 125 peach and apple trees.

C NC P&R

14A 1 B Sherrod-Best-Fleming House: Renovated in the early 1980s by current owners, Tom and Daisy Etheridge, this c. 1830 two-story farmhouse displays handsome transitional Federal-Greek Revival details. Unlike most Federal-style dwellings in the county, the three-bay facade is symmetrically composed, having a central entrance with an impressive door of nine raised panels surmounted by a five-light transom. The first story has nine-over-nine sash windows that are uncharacteristically paired on the facade, with six-over-six sash windows above, all being enframed by three-part molded surrounds. Equally important is the survival of the beaded weatherboards on the facade. The rest of the house is sheathed with plain weatherboards. The configuration of the original porch is unknown, but the present gable-front portico with delicate connected posts was added in the 1850s to update the house to the popular Greek Revival fashion. Other significant features include tall exterior end brick chimneys with a 6:1 common bond, single paved shoulders, freestanding stacks, and with corbeled cap, corner pilasters, a cornice with crown molding and, at the end gables, pronounced returns.

The spacious hall-and-parlor plan interior features an enclosed winder stair rising from the rear of the east (left) "hall" and a handsome two-part Federal-style mantel in the west "parlor." This mantel has paired, fluted pilasters supporting a wide frieze framed with diagonally reeded bands. The plastered rooms are finished with flat-paneled wainscots and modest molded surrounds. On the rear is a large ell

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added during the second half of the nineteenth century. It has two interior chimneys and, on its east side, an engaged, screened porch.

- 14B 1 B Smokehouse: ca. 1880; front-gable smokehouse sheathed with weatherboards; board-and-batten central door; located just behind the main house.
- 14C 1 B Garage: ca. 1920; frame, front-gable garage sheathed with weatherboards; overhanging eaves with exposed joists; large double doors.
- 14D 1 B Wash house: ca. 1910; front-gable board-and-batten building; one-room with rear two-over-two vertical sash window; off-center front entrance; shelf on outside; unfinished interior; well is located just next to this building.
- 14E 1 B Outbuilding: ca. 1920; frame, front gable, one-room building; sheathed with weatherboards; off center front entrance with second door on north side; shed roof hood on north side sheltering shelf along exterior wall; window along south side gable elevation; original use is unknown.
- 14F 1 B Equipment storage shed: ca. 1970; corrugated metal building with central garage opening on south gable end; used as a repair shop.
- 14G 1 ST Chicken coop: ca. 1930; frame, side gable structure; overgrown and in ruins.
- 14H 3 ST Grain bins: ca. 1960; round metal grain bins.
- 14I 1 B Sherrod-Best-Fleming Tenant House: ca. 1930s; frame, front gable with small, attached porch and three-bay symmetrical facade; one-story with finished attic; interior brick chimney flue; located on the same property and across NC 142 from Sherrod-Best-Fleming House; line of large deciduous trees forms the property line of the farm; 1921 survey map of the farm shows a small, one-story house with a exterior end chimney on this site. While this is not that house, it does show that a tenant house stood here for at least seventy-five years.
- 14J 1 B Privy: ca. 1930s; frame, front gable; located behind Sherrod-Best-Fleming Tenant House.

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15) Mobile Home: S side of NC 142, 1 mile E of jct. with SR 1002.

- 1 B Mobile Home: ca. 1970; surrounded by wire fence; lot carved out of land originally part of Sherrod-Best-Fleming farm (#14).

16) Fleming House: S side of NC 142, 1 mile E of jct. with SR 1002.

When the Sherrod-Best-Fleming farm (#14) was divided among Lizzie Best Fleming's heirs in 1922, this particular lot was granted to Selma Fleming, but the house originally on this plot was apparently occupied by Selma's younger brother, William A. Fleming (b. 1897). The 1922 survey map of Sherrod-Best-Fleming farm shows a one-story house with a rear ell and three chimneys on this site. Local residents remember that the original house was two-stories and it somewhat resembled the Sherrod-Best-Fleming House. It stood several yards behind the present structure, but it burned in the mid-1930s. The one-and-one-half story house was built in 1937 for William A. Fleming by Lynn Taylor, a family friend of the Flemings who lived in Norfolk, Virginia at the time, but was originally from this area. The house and the twenty-seven-acre lot is now owned by Selma Fleming Everett and occupied by her son, Wade Everett and his wife Shirley.

Landscape: The house is set back off of the road and the lot contains several cedar trees along with a row of large deciduous trees along the western property line. There are no outbuildings on the property.

C NC P&R

- 1 B Fleming House: ca. 1937; frame, side gable, 1 1/2 story house with three-bay facade and two gable dormers; windows are all four-over-four sash; sheathed with weatherboards; altered stoop porch shelters the central door and on the side gable, a hip roof porch extends across the entire three-bay elevation; shed addition to the rear.

17) Waldo tenant house: N side of NC 142, .8 miles E of jct. with SR 1002.

- 17A 1 B Waldo Tenant House: ca. 1930s; frame, front-gable house with Craftsman details; three-bay symmetrical facade; sheathed with weatherboards; overhanging eaves with brackets on main facade and exposed joists on other elevations; altered bungalow porch supports now concrete block piers with round posts; shed addition to the rear; land obtained by prominent Martin County land holder, Harry Waldo, in 1916; remains in Waldo family today; house and 135.5 acre farm occupied and cultivated by tenants; farm extends from Conoho Creek to NC 142.

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#	C	NC	P&R
17B	1		B
Tenant House: ca. 1910; side gable house sheathed with weatherboards; attached shed roof porch with floor and original supports now gone; three-bay facade; central hall, one-room deep with flushboard interior walls and shed addition to rear; brick pier foundation.			
17C	1		B
Tobacco barns connected by grading shed: ca. 1925; front gable tobacco barns sheathed with board and battens; brick foundation; long, side gable grading shed connecting them.			
17D	1		ST
Bulk tobacco barn: ca. 1960; frame with battens; concrete block foundation; tall, shed roof structure in front of it.			

18) Cherry Cemetery: N side of NC 142, off of a dirt road .2 miles from NC 142.

The land on which this cemetery is sited was originally owned by Micijah Mayo who sold the property to John Best in 1884. Best died in 1887 leaving the land to his descendants, M. C. S. Cherry and his wife, Arcena, of Pitt County, R. B. and Sallie E. Salsbury, and J. H. and Lizzie Sherrod. A year later, Boston Cherry, an African-American farmer, bought the 294-acre farm from John Best's heirs. Boston and his wife, Peggy, built a house near this cemetery and lived in it with his fourteen children and three grandchildren until his death in 1901. The land was then divided among his heirs, but Peggy continued to live in the house until she died in 1937. The land is owned by Milton C. Council, Sr., a descendent of Boston Cherry. The house is no longer standing. The cemetery contains the graves of at least 24 Cherry family members making it the largest cemetery in the district. Both Boston and Peggy are buried here along with a number of their children.

#	C	NC	P&R
1			S
Cherry Cemetery: set at the edge of a field on the eastern border of the Milton C. Council, Sr. farm; surrounded by a metal fence and accessed from NC 142 by a long, sandy field road.			

19) Paul Cherry House Site: N side of NC 142, .6 miles E from jct. of SR 1002.

19A	1		S
Paul Cherry House Site: remnants of frame house with concrete block foundation and asphalt shingle roof; low, decorative concrete block wall to the west of the house; house once belonged to Paul Cherry (1895-1966), son of Boston Cherry, a prominent African-American man who lived nearby; house burned in mid-twentieth century.			

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19B 1 B Corn Barn: ca. 1930; frame corn barn; sheathed with weatherboards; open shed additions to both sides.

20) Ballard-Hyman-Thomas Farm: S side of NC 142, .5 mile E of jct. with SR 1002.

In the early nineteenth century, this farm was originally owned by either Isham Ballard or his father Silas Ballard, Sr. (d. 1836). The ca. 1820 one and one-half story kitchen on the rear of this house may have been the first farmhouse on the property. The main block of the Ballard-Hyman-Thomas House was built in 1848 for William Robert Hyman (1820-1882) who married Nancy Davis Ballard (1818-1883), daughter of Isham Ballard. Although Isham Ballard deeded the 370-acre farm to his daughter in 1849, the two-story Greek Revival section has apparently already been added onto the earlier house as the date inscribed on the chimney brick reads "1848". William Hyman was a moderately prosperous farmer in 1850 who owned nine slaves and 375 acres of farm land valued at \$900. By 1860 he had increased his land holdings by fifteen acres and his real estate value rose to \$2,500. In addition to farming, Hyman also taught at the nearby Salsbury School. Local tradition relates that he had an interest in a Hamilton mercantile store. By 1880, at the age of 60, Hyman was suffering from rheumatism and his farm lapsed as well. On his three hundred acre tract, he planted only thirty acres in crops and his total farm production equaled just \$150. In previous years, Hyman cultivated over one hundred acres. After Nancy Hyman's death in 1883, the land was inherited by her children. In 1910, William Durham Hyman, Nancy and William's son, sold the house and the sixty-three surrounding acres to James Thomas (1866-1920) and his wife, Ida (d. 1925). The Thomases lived in the house until their deaths. The property changed hands numerous times after their deaths, but since the 1950s, the house and seventy-four acres surrounding it has been owned by the Eubanks family who rent to tenants.

Landscape: (See Sketch Map E) The 360-acre tract which Isham Ballard gave his daughter Nancy Hyman in 1849, extended across both sides of present day NC 142 and, like many of the other farmlands in the area, it was probably bordered on the north by Conoho Creek. Today the house sits on a hammer-shaped parcel of seventy-four acres and is bordered on the north by NC 142, not Conoho Creek. Nearly all of the property is wooded.

The house itself sits near the highway. A dirt driveway runs to the west of it and leads to a series of twentieth-century outbuildings--all of which are weathered and include an equipment shed, a packhouse, a mule stable, a grain bin, and two flue cure tobacco barns linked by a grading shed. Although the number and types of nineteenth-century outbuildings are unknown, the 1860 slave schedule shows that William Hyman had three slaves houses on the property for his nine slaves. The Thomas cemetery is located quite a distance southeast of the main house. There are no significant landscaping features in the yard.

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20A 1 B Ballard-Hyman-Thomas House: ca. 1820, 1848; Illustrating the wide acceptance of the Greek Revival style among the county's planters during the 1840s, this modestly-scaled farmhouse follows a vernacular two-story, side hall plan form finished in fashionable Greek Revival elements seen elsewhere in the county during this period. These include the broad, fluted surrounds with cornerblocks, large nine-over-nine sash windows, and a double row of sidelights flanking the entrance that permit an abundance of natural light inside. Also typical of the period was a second-story porch, now indicated by the remaining pilasters above the present entrance, and boxed cornices with end returns on gables that otherwise have simple rakeboards. This portico was eventually replaced by a full facade hipped roof porch. Also of note is a handsome double-shoulder chimney on the west (right) containing a datebrick inscribed "1848" and the simple pillars that support the replacement porch.

The plastered interior displays simple Greek Revival woodwork, including fluted surrounds with cornerblocks, a plain post and lintel mantel in the parlor, and transverse stair with a graceful, square newel and thin, square balusters supporting a rounded handrail. On the rear are original shed rooms that connect to a plain, vernacular one-room, one and one-half story kitchen which predates the house. This kitchen is covered by a steeply-pitched side-gable roof anchored by a massive east gable end, common bond chimney with paved shoulders. Its interior walls are sheathed with flushboards.

20B 1 B Equipment storage shelter: ca. 1940; post construction with corrugated metal siding; shed roof; three garage bays; stores large farm equipment.

20C 1 B Packhouse: ca. 1930; front gable packhouse sheathed with weatherboards; battens and tarpaper later added; shed addition to side.

20D 1 B Mule stable: ca. 1930; frame, shed roof.

20E 1 B Tobacco barns connected by grading shed: ca. 1930; front gable tobacco barns sheathed with flushboards and tarpaper; long, side gable grading shed connecting them.

20F 1 B Privy: ca. 1940; shed roof privy sheathed with corrugated metal.

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20G 1 S Thomas Cemetery: ca. 1925; two homemade markers set under a small pecan tree southeast of the house; one reads "Ida B., wife of James Thomas, November 18?, 1870?-June 3, 1925"; second marker is illegible, but may be James Thomas's. The marker is rectangular with a pointed top and a brick domed sarcophagus lays behind it.

20H 1 ST Grain bin: ca. 1960; round metal grain bin.

21) Mack Best House: N side of NC 142, .4 miles E of jct. with SR 1002.

The property on which this house stands was once part of a large parcel of land owned by Boston Cherry (1844-1901), a African-American man who owned over 300 acres of farmland in this area in the late nineteenth century. Boston's property was divided among his heirs in 1911. At that time, this fifty-nine-acre lot was given to the heirs of Nancy Best, Boston's daughter. Oral tradition holds that Mack Best (1892-1925), Nancy's son, built this house around 1911 when he inherited the land. Mack and his wife, Alice (1892-1980), lived in the house with their children until their deaths. The house now stands vacant.

Landscape: The fifty-nine acre long, narrow lot extends from Conoho Creek on the north across NC 142 to include another long lot on the north side of the road. The only remaining outbuilding associated with this house is a frame garage located just to the northwest of it. On the east side of the house appears to be the remnants of a garden plot. A 1937 ariel photo of the area shows a grove of trees (probably pecans as there are a few seedlings here today) next to the house. The photo also shows numerous other outbuildings on the property.

C NC P&R

21A 1 B Mack Best House: ca. 1911; This one-and-one-half story, side gable vernacular farmhouse features a central cross gable with a return box cornice and a four-over-four sash window. The three-bay facade is sheltered by an attached shed roof porch with slender, round Doric columns representative of the Colonial Revival style. The house is framed with corner boards and there are return cornice on the gable ends. A single interior brick chimney is located between the main block and the kitchen/dining rear ell. Entrance to the house is through a half glass door with sidelights.

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The house has a central hall plan with a kitchen/dining ell and a later enclosed porch and an added shed room. The interior of the main block is sheathed with narrow beaded boards. In the front east room is a wooden mantle featuring a mirror in between two shelves. Connecting the shelves on each side of the mantle are three semi-circular pieces of wood which create a scalloped pattern when viewed from the side. This fireplace has been altered to fit a stove flue. The open stair to the half story contains no balustrade, but does feature a simple chamfered newel post.

- 21B 1 B Garage: ca. 1930; frame, front gable garage sheathed with weatherboards.
- 21C 1 B Harry Best House: ca. 1958; concrete block, hip roof house; stoop porch and three-bay asymmetrical facade; eight-pane casement windows; part of Mack and Alice Best's farm and located on the south side of NC 142; now occupied by Harry Best, Mack and Alice's son; 1937 ariel photo of the property shows another house on this site which explains the earlier outbuildings on the property.
- 21D 1 B Privy: ca. 1935; shed roof privy sheathed with corrugated metal; in deteriorated condition.
- 21E 1 ST Chicken coop: ca. 1935; shed roof coop sheathed with metal; in deteriorated condition.
- 21F 2 B Two barns: ca. 1925; frame barns in ruinous condition.
- 21G 1 B Tobacco barn: ca. 1925; frame, front gable tobacco barn covered with tarpaper; set away from the house along eastern property line.

22) Cherry-Council House: N side of NC 142, .3 mile E of jct. with SR 1002.

The land on which this hipped-roof early twentieth-century farmhouse stands was once part of Boston Cherry's (1844-1901) 324-acre farm. This parcel was given to Boston's son, John William Cherry (1873-1963) in 1911. Oral tradition holds that John built this house just after the land was parceled, but it may have been standing prior to this as the 1911 land division map shows a house already on this site. John and his wife, Lula Watson Cherry (1878-1960) lived in this house with their children until their deaths. Local residents, black and white, fondly remember buying cream and butter from John.

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The house is now owned by Milton Council, grandson of John William Cherry. The house has been occupied by tenants since John Cherry's death in 1963.

Landscape: The house lies on a long, narrow, fifty-two acre lot which extends from Conoho Creek to NC 142. Most of the parcel is cultivated aside from the forested area long the creek. The 1937 ariel photo shows that there was once a substantial number of outbuildings behind the house. Although there were smaller fields, the range of cultivated land remains the same as today. There was once also a east-west road which connected the house to the outbuildings (now the grain bin and tobacco barn) along the western property line. There is a packhouse and several large pecan trees to the west of the house. Further west is a grain bin and a tobacco barn. The house is reached by a long drive which is flanked by cotton fields.

C NC P&R

- 22A 1 B Cherry-Council House: ca. 1911; frame bungalow; three-bay facade with two-over-two vertical sash windows and overhanging eaves with exposed joists; post-over-pier bungalow porch supports with tapered columns and capitals; sheathed with plain weatherboards; two interior brick chimneys; center hall plan with a kitchen ell to the rear.
- 22B 1 B Packhouse: ca. 1935; front gable packhouse sheathed with corrugated metal; shed roof addition to side.
- 22C 1 B Tobacco barn: ca. 1925; front gable tobacco barn sheathed with weatherboards.
- 22D 1 ST Grain bin: ca. 1960; round metal grain bin.

23) Cherry-Council tenant house: N side of NC 142, .2 miles E of jct. with SR 1002.

- 1 B Cherry-Council tenant house: ca. 1940; frame, front gable house; three-bay asymmetrical facade with an attached hipped roof porch; two-room deep house; sheathed with drop siding; two interior brick chimney flues; house sited on small lot carved from Cherry-Council House land (#22); now owned by Randolph and Dorothy Spruill.

24) Goff House: N side of NC 142, .1 mile E of jct. with SR 1002

- 24A 1 B House: ca. 1972; brick ranch with enclosed garage on the east end; owned by Walter J. Goff and Shirley Goff.

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#	C	NC	P&R
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24B		1	B
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Shop: ca. 1975; L-shaped, frame shop; porch across facade.

24C		1	B
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Tobacco barn: ca. 1940; front gable, frame tobacco barn; sheathed with corrugated metal; in poor condition.**25) Stalls House:** N side of NC 142, .025 miles E from jct. with SR 1002.

2		B	
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House: ca. 1972; brick ranch with carport on east end; small metal storage shed in the northeast corner of the lot; property owned by John and Lyda Stalls.**26) Butler House:** N side of NC 142 at jct. with SR 1002.

1		B	
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House: ca. 1974; brick ranch with carport on east end; property owned by Danny and Sherry Butler.**27) Haislip House:** S side of NC 142 at jct. with SR 1002.

This house was probably built by Joseph T. Haislip shortly after his 1897 marriage to Katie A. Staton. The house was certainly here by 1901 as a map (Exhibit C) of this crossroads shows a house on this corner. Joseph worked as a mail carrier for many years and when he died in 1939, his son, Joseph, Jr. (1900-1964) moved into the house with his wife, Mildred, who still lives here.

Landscape: The fifty-eight-acre house lot is set just a few feet off NC 142 and bordered by SR 1002 on the west and south. The yard is landscaped with crepe myrtles, pecan trees, and flower beds. Behind the house is a small fruit orchard and a vegetable garden. On the east side of the house is a packhouse. As shown by a 1937 ariel photograph, the property once contained several other outbuildings behind the house. The lot contains some wooded areas and cultivated fields which are leased by Dalton Purvis.

#	C	NC	P&R
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27A	1		B
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Haislip House: ca. 1900; This simple, side gable home is typical of vernacular farmhouses built during the early twentieth century. It has a balanced three-bay facade with an attached hipped roof porch supported by plain square supports. The windows are six-over-six sash with simple surrounds and the central entrance is flanked by sidelights. The house is sheathed with plain weatherboards and set on brick piers. Only one of two original interior brick chimneys remains. There is a shed roof addition to the rear as well as a two-room rear ell with a screened porch. There is also a shed addition at the end of the ell which now serves as a kitchen.

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The house has a one-room deep center hall plan. Aside from the vernacular wooden mantels in the two front rooms, most of the original woodwork is now gone. The two remaining mantels in the front rooms are composed of strips of wood of varying thickness stacked on one another creating a V-shaped design with a shelf on top. The walls and ceiling may have originally been sheathed with narrow beaded boards like the front porch ceiling. They are now however, covered with sheetrock and acoustical tiles.

27B 1 B Packhouse: ca. 1925; front gable packhouse with window flanking central door; board-and-batten sheathing; shed addition to side.

28) Fire Tower: E side of SR 1002, .3 miles S of jct. with NC 142.

1 ST Fire Tower: ca. 1936; 100 feet in height with nine flights of wooden steps; square observation room at top; constructed by North Carolina State Department of Conservation and Development; still used on occasion by North Carolina Forest Service; land is under a ninety-nine-year lease from Mildred Haislip.

29) Burroughs Farm Buildings: S side of NC 142, .1 mile W of jct. with SR 1002.

Oral tradition holds that James Franklin Purvis built a mail-order home on this site around the turn of the twentieth century. A 1937 ariel photograph of the property shows the house and numerous outbuildings set in a grove of trees. There are still several large pecan trees in the center of this collection of outbuildings. The fifty-two-acre parcel is now owned by Lucille Burroughs and is farmed by her son-in-law William Bennett who lives nearby. Bennett uses these buildings to store his farm equipment. William and his wife, Joan Burroughs Bennett, moved here from Norfolk and set up a series of self-pick vegetable fields. The sign set along the highway which reads "B&B U-Pick Garden" is evidence of this operation. Most of the remaining outbuildings are in deteriorated condition and include a packhouse, two grain bins, shed, and two long animal shelters.

29A 1 B Equipment Storage shelter: ca. 1960; post construction with a corrugated metal roof.

29B 2 ST Grain bins: ca. 1970; cylindrical metal grain bins.

29C 1 B Packhouse: ca. 1930; front gable packhouse sheathed with weatherboards later replaced by corrugated metal; open shed addition to side; windows on side elevation; in deteriorated condition.

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29D	1	B	Shed: ca. 1970; post construction sheathed with corrugated metal.
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29E	2	ST	Animal shelter: ca. 1960; long, side gable structure of post construction; sheathed with corrugated metal; in ruinous condition.
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30) Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks Plantation: N side of NC 142, .3 mile W of jct. with SR 1002.

Approached from a long lane with an entrance flanked by brick columns, this house and its surrounding collection of outbuildings is Martin County's best preserved example of a plantation complex dating to the early nineteenth century. The impressive complement of outbuildings spans a broad range of time and includes a hewn plank kitchen and smokehouse, a carriage house, tenant house, tobacco barns, the early twentieth-century Hassell jail, and other agricultural buildings. On the property also stands the Sycamore Grove and Salsbury schoolhouses. The focus of the farm is the main ca. 1820 dwelling house--a one-and-one-half story, side-hall plan block contained beneath a steeply pitched side-gabled roof that, with its two tall, double-shouldered chimneys and flush gable ends, yields a profile that is particularly evocative of late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth-century architecture of the tidewater South. An earlier one-story, one-room dwelling with an attic is located just to the rear of the main house and was probably built just before the larger dwelling for Joseph R. Ballard (1787-1841) around the time of his marriage in 1809.

Ballard was a successful planter owning twenty-two slaves in 1830. He was also a lawyer and served in the North Carolina House of Representatives (1819-1821). After his death in 1841, his daughter Sally Eliza Ballard Bennett (b. 1810) inherited the house. Born in 1810, Sally was a child from Joseph's first marriage to Elizabeth. In August 1842, a little over a year after Joseph Ballard's death, Sally and her husband, Bryant Bennett, a prominent Hamilton merchant, attorney, and politician, sold the 384 acre farm to James Salsbury (1810-1864), a native of Washington County.

An enterprising farmer, Salsbury also operated a grist mill and sawmill on the mill swamp northeast of the homeplace. His 1864 will makes reference to a miller's house, evidence of a well-established mill enterprise. Other industries on the farm included a brandy still and apple mill. By 1860, Salsbury farmed 600 acres and had \$12,000 worth of personal property, including twenty-one slaves. When he died in 1864, Salsbury left the homeplace and its adjoining 120-acre tract to his son Richard Brinkley and his wife Sallie Elizabeth Sherrod Salsbury. In 1871 Richard and Sarah sold the homeplace to Richard's brother Robert Hyman Salsbury (1848-1918) and his wife Laura E. Purvis Salsbury (1850-1889). Robert was also a very successful farmer cultivating 200 of his 238 acres in 1880 and producing thirty-five bales of cotton, one of the highest amounts in the area. In 1885 Robert Salsbury established the Salsbury Mercantile Company in the general store located across from the house

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(#31). In the post-World War I period, his sons by Laura, Paul and Walter, operated the family's business in Hassell. During this period, they were joined in the business by John W. Eubanks. In 1950, Eubanks bought the Farm Supply Company and the Salsbury homeplace. The property was passed to Eubanks' only child, Eleanor Shephard. It remained occupied by tenants until recently when it was purchased by Reid Thomas who is currently restoring it.

Landscape: (See Sketch Map F) The house and most of its surrounding outbuildings are situated on a ten-acre parcel of land which was carved out of an over 200-acre tract. The Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks plantation once encompassed a large expanse of property which included frontage on Conoho Creek and several of its tributaries.

Deed records mention a mill to the north of the house on a branch of Conoho Creek as early as 1812. The Salsburys operated a substantial mill on or near this site later in the nineteenth century. An 1864 map of the area clearly shows a dam and large mill pond to the north of the house. Later the railroad built its line and a trussel across the pond. Today the creek is still known as Salsbury Mill branch.

The main dwelling house is approached by a long drive bordered by two brick columns at the entrance placed here during the Victorian period. At one time, an iron gate connected these columns and an iron fence surrounded the property creating an imposing barrier between the public and the plantation family. The drive itself was bordered by a row of trees directing the visitor's eye to the plantation house. Two cedar trees stand on the south side of the entrance columns next to the road. To the east of the drive stood a row of small houses with chimneys--probably slave quarters.

Today only the drive and columns remain. Two large oak trees, however, still stand at opposite front corners of the house. Surrounding the house is a collection of outbuildings dating from the early nineteenth century to the 1940s. Directly behind the house is a hewn plank kitchen and just to the east of the house stands a hewn smokehouse of the same period. In an effort to save buildings in the nearby town of Hassell, John W. Eubanks, owner of the plantation at the time, moved two structures from town onto the property in the 1950s. As a result of his crusade, the Hassell jail stands just to the northeast of the house. Until recently, a barber shop, once located in Hassell, was here as well. Unfortunately, the structure collapsed. The main drive to the house veers off to the right dividing this group of outbuildings from others. The c. 1830 carriage house, recently restored, is located to the southeast of the house. Next to it is the site of the original one-and-one-half story stable. Continuing north is another series of outbuildings including and a seven-bay equipment storage shelter. Further down this road is a tenant house which is now in near ruinous condition. At the edge of the fields just to the east of these buildings stands three tobacco barns, though not on the ten-acre house lot, are associated with the plantation complex. The barns are still used to cure tobacco. The plantation road continues to the north of the

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house paralleling the railroad tracts which bisect the property and connect a series of fields. At one time, this road continued across a branch of Conoho Creek and made a loop. A 1901 USGS map (Exhibit C) shows a number of structures along this route which may have possibly been tenant houses as this flat area next to the creek was probably cultivated land. The Ballard family cemetery is also located nearby. On either side of the drive stands the Salsbury and Sycamore Grove Schoolhouses.

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30A 1 B Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks House: ca. 1810, ca. 1820; Although the rear east gable 5:1 common bond chimney with tumbled weatherings contains a datebrick which reads, "April 22, 1835 D.S. Moore," the house does not date to this period. It is thought that this chimney was replaced perhaps at that time. The only significant changes to the house occurred during the Victorian period when twin gabled dormers accented with modest sawn ornaments were added to the front. At this time, the front-gabled portico was replaced by a hipped roof front porch with elaborate scrolled brackets and square posts. The original porch posts and pilasters survive and have been reused on the front porch of the Salsbury school. They are Georgian style rectangular posts with molded caps. The Victorian porch also had a sawn slat balustrade which survived intact until the 1970s. Other Victorian elements include the double-leaf entrance with molded panels and attenuated two-over-two sash windows. A one-room wing was also added onto the west elevation at this time.

The plastered side-hall double-pile interior exhibits a level of transitional Georgian to Federal sophistication unrivaled in Martin County. The two principal first floor rooms, the hall/passage and parlor, feature flat-panel wainscoting. All other rooms contain three-part chair rail and simple beaded baseboards. The wide entrance hall/passage boasts a stair closet surmounted by a china closet with a glass pane door, and a reserved, partially-enclosed stair that rises from the rear. A series of pegboards with decorative turned pegs, for hanging an assortment of items, runs the length of the hall. This room also features doors on either end for cross ventilation. Doors throughout the original main block have six robust raised panels, and the downstairs mantels are composed of five raised panels arranged in two rows, and stacked shelves. The wide frieze is decorated with punch-work and dental detailing. The parlor mantel is supported by fluted pilasters. The upstairs landing is invigorated by a slat balustrade and a graceful newel with lambs' tongue chamfers.

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The woodwork on the one-story west wing end features low, vertical-boards paneled wainscot and plain mantel with simple pilasters, frieze with slightly arched architrave, and a stacked mantel shelf.

The one-story, one-room rear structure was probably constructed before the main house around 1810. Originally unplastered, the exposed ceiling rafters, studs, and the backside of the weatherboarding retains much of its original whitewash finish. The dwelling is believed to have been converted to a dining room sometime following the completion of the main house. Perhaps the narrow four-over-four sash windows were changed to six-over-six, and the simple Greek Revival mantel was added at this time. Surviving up until the 1970s was a "ships ladder" rising up to the attic. This usable attic contained hinged sash windows on each gable end and a board-and-batten door with HL hinges and a wooden latch. An exterior board-and-batten door hanging on HL hinges survives on the first floor. An unheated shed room and porch were probably added at the same time that these other changes occurred.

C NC P&R

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| 30B | 1 | B | Carriage House: ca. 1830; Built with the same type of framing as the main house, this front gable carriage house probably dates to around 1830. Located southeast of the main house at the edge of a field, the building has a central double-door entrance and is sheathed with weatherboards. Until recently restored, the carriage house had shed extensions to both sides and a larger central opening. The building was so altered that its original age and appearance remained hidden for decades. Restoration work revealed a plank floor and evidence of the original size of the carriage portal. A large one-and-one-half story stable stood to the left of this building until the 1970s which suggests this building was used as a carriage house. |
| 30C | 1 | B | Outbuilding: c. 1940s; front gable outbuilding with shed addition to side; frame, covered with corrugated metal; central entrance in both main block and addition. |
| 30D | 1 | B | Equipment storage shelter and corn barn: ca. 1940s; shed roof, seven-bay concrete block and corrugated metal structure; frame, front gable corn barn attached at north end. |
| 30E | 2 | B | Tobacco barns: ca. 1940; frame, front gable; flue cure; sheathed with battens and tar paper; concrete block foundation. |

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30F 1 B Tobacco barn with grading shed: ca. 1940; frame, front gable flue cure tobacco barn; sheathed with battens and tar paper; concrete block foundation; frame grading shed attached to north end.

30G 1 B Hassell jail: ca. 1926; In 1926 the Hassell town commissioners voted to build this side gable, frame jail at the cost of \$15. Originally located behind the Salsbury Supply company in Hassell, this building replaced an earlier jail. In the 1950s, John W. Eubanks moved the jail to its present site on the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks farm. Called "calabooses," after the Spanish term "calaboza"--a jail or lockup--these small jailhouses were common structures in towns across North Carolina into the early twentieth century. They were used by local law enforcers as retaining centers where criminals were incarcerated for brief periods before being transported to county jails. Those accused of minor crimes such as disturbing the peace were often set free after spending the night.

This weatherboarded structure has a central wall partition dividing the building into two, small cells each with plank board bunks along the outside walls. No provisions were made for heat. Each cell is illuminated by a small window with flat iron cross bars. On the main facade, a shed overhang shelters two board-and-batten doors--one to each cell.

30H 1 B Smokehouse: ca. 1815; front gable smokehouse; hewn plank construction; weatherboards in gable ends; plank floor interior.

30I 1 B Kitchen: This c. 1809 hewn plank, side-gable structure with full dovetail notches was most likely used as a kitchen for the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks house. Weatherboards cover the gable ends. A wide central plank entrance door leads into a unceiled, one-room interior in which there is considerable evidence of past cooking activity. The present exterior end gable chimney dates to the late nineteenth century. The firebox in the original chimney was high enough for cooking. The side and rear windows have board-and-batten shutters that slide up and down and back and forth respectively on boards secured to the wall--a rare survival of an early technique to close windows. In the southwest corner is a built-in corner cupboard which was added in the twentieth century.

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30J 1 B Tenant house: ca. 1870, ca. 1920; side gable house with attached shed roof porch; saddlebag plan with central chimney; original 1870 section shows evidence of whitewashing; sheathed with weatherboards; in ruinous condition.

Sycamore Grove Schoolhouse: This schoolhouse was constructed for White School District No. 27 around 1900 and was probably named after the town of Hassell which was called Sycamore Grove before its incorporation in 1903. The building is now situated on the ten-acre Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks Plantation to the east of main drive on NC 142. Local tradition relates that after the Sycamore Grove School was replaced by a newer schoolhouse in the late 1920s or early 1930s, the Salsbury family moved the older school to their farm and converted it to a tenant house. In the process, they reoriented the schoolhouse and added a rear ell and shed room making it into a dwelling. Today the building is occupied by tenants.

The yard is landscaped with boxwood hedges across the main facade (originally the south elevation), crepe myrtles, and large sweet gum trees. A frame privy stands in the northwest corner of the property.

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30K 1 B Sycamore Grove Schoolhouse: ca. 1900; Characteristic of the county's early twentieth century schoolhouses is the building's tall, narrow gable-front form. The original front entrance is flanked by two windows and sheltered by a hipped roof porch with exaggerated turned posts that are topped with attenuated block capitals. The porch's corner posts are bracketed. A shed porch across the south elevation which now functions as the main facade and faces the road, repeats this decorative trim. The building is sheathed with weatherboards and framed by a wide friezeband below the roof's deep eaves and corner pilasters.

30L 1 B Privy: ca. 1935; shed roof, frame privy; located behind the Sycamore Grove Schoolhouse.

Salsbury Schoolhouse: Built in the 1840s, the Salsbury School is one of few surviving examples of the once numerous antebellum public, or common, schools built in North Carolina which began to appear across the state following the passage of the state's first public school law in 1839. In April 1843, James Salsbury donated an acre of his plantation house tract for the school which still stands on this site. This structure served as a grade school until it was replaced around 1900 by the Sycamore Grove School. The

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Salsbury family then converted the older school to a tenant house and it remains a residence today. It is sited on the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks House property just to the west of the main drive.

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30M 1 B Salsbury Schoolhouse: ca. 1840s; The chief distinguishing feature of the side-gabled, weatherboarded building is the massive west gable-end chimney. Partially stuccoed, the 6:1 common bond chimney has steeply sloped paved shoulders and a corbeled cap. The shed roof porch is supported by tapered square posts with vernacular Greek Revival style block capitals which were originally on the porch of the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks house next door. The unusual front door has four panels fitted with diagonally laid boards and one plain raised panel. The six-over-six sash windows have plan unmolded surrounds.

The interior follows a one-room deep, center hall plan extended by a rear ell. Some walls are still sheathed with their original flush horizontal planks; others have later beaded board sheathing. The rear kitchen, probably added after the building was converted to a tenant house, is linked to the back porch by an open breezeway.

30N 1 B Garage: ca. 1920; front gable frame garage sheathed with weatherboards; located behind Salsbury Schoolhouse.

31) Salsbury General Store: S side of NC 142, .4 miles W of jct. with SR 1002.

This general mercantile store is one of only a handful of late nineteenth-century rural stores still standing in Martin County. Local tradition holds that Robert Hyman Salsbury established the Salsbury Supply Company and began operating this store in 1885. A large landholder in the Hassell vicinity, Salsbury also operated a cotton gin in the town during the twentieth-century railroad boom era. By the 1930s, Salsbury built another store building in Hassell. In 1950 John W. Eubanks became the sole owner of the Salsbury mercantile and manufacturing concerns which he continued to own and operate until his retirement in 1960. Several years after taking over the business, Eubanks built a third brick store building opposite the general mercantile store established by Salsbury in Hassell. In recent years this original weatherboarded store has been used as a tobacco packhouse. It is owned by Eleanor Eubanks Shepard, John's only child.

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1 B Salsbury General Store: The long, rectangular store has a gable-front roof with a large shed roof addition to the east side. The visual focus of the store is a centered

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entrance with a three-part molded surround surmounted by a two-light transom. It is flanked by attenuated windows that have wire mesh shutters and thin hoods. The roofline has wide eaves and a shallow box cornice. The ceiled, open interior has simple wall shelves.

32) Circulation Network

1 ST Throughout the district is a network of paved roads and dirt farm lanes which contribute significantly to the physical character of the area. The primary road, NC 142, runs east-west through the entire district dividing it almost in half. All farms and secondary roads are oriented towards this highway. Often called the Tarboro to Williamston Road, NC 142 began as an eighteenth-century post road which connected Edenton (incorporated 1722) to Tarboro (incorporated 1760) via the Martin County seat of Williamston (incorporated 1779). The 1863 Civil War map (Exhibit A) clearly shows this road in nearly the identical location it follows today. Later twentieth-century maps (Exhibits B, C, and D) also show the highway essentially unchanged from its present course. In March 1990, NC 142 was designated a Scenic Byway by the North Carolina Department of Transportation and was described as "embodying the diverse beauty and culture of the Tar Heel State." Secondary roads include SR 1313, SR 1312, and SR 1002 all run roughly north-south through the district and intersect with NC 142. SR 1313 and SR 1002 appear to have early nineteenth-century origins and connected the Outterbridge and Ballard farms, respectively, with the port town of Hamilton. SR 1312, however, was a later nineteenth-century farm road which linked the Salsbury property with the town of Gold Point (established 1899). While NC 142 was graded and drained beginning in the 1930s, it was not paved until the following decade. The secondary roads remained unpaved until after 1950. Along with these highways, are a series of dirt farm roads which extend, at various points, north and south from NC 142. They most often connect the main dwelling houses with their respective fields and agricultural outbuildings.

33) Conoho Creek Historic District Landscape

1 S The natural and historic landscape of the portion of Conoho Creek which parallels NC 142 in north central Martin County blend together to create scenic vistas of open agricultural fields interspersed with woodland. During the period of significance, roadways and farms developed and they remain today largely unchanged illustrating a remarkable integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Modern non-contributing properties are usually concentrated within a specific area leaving the historic character of the district intact.

The creek and its tributaries compose the natural element of the district. Conoho Creek itself follows a general easterly course roughly paralleling NC 142. It is lined by an unbroken forest composed

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of stands of large deciduous trees, pines, and cypress. The soil around the creek is generally swampy and floods year round. While it supports a variety of plant and wildlife, it does not allow for agricultural or residential development.

Conoho Creek may have been used often as a navigable stream to float logs or carry flatboats, but it seems unlikely that it served as a major transportation route since the port town of Hamilton on the Roanoke River is only a few miles north and accessible by well-established roads. While the creek eventually flows into the Roanoke River just above the county seat of Williamston, its course is winding and it actually does not meet the river for approximately twenty miles. To illustrate its lack of transportational importance, none of the buildings in the district are sited towards the creek. This does not mean to suggest that the creek was not an important aspect of the district. The creek's abundance of fish and wildlife made it an important hunting ground and its woodlands certainly contributed to the timber and naval stores industry so prominent in Martin County's history. Creek lowgrounds are mentioned in several late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century will and deed records suggesting that this was a prized area to own. For example, in a 1799 deed for the sale of a parcel of land along the creek, there is a special provision for Burr Outterbridge to operate a cartway to the creek lowgrounds.

The only substantial alterations of the creek occur along two of its major tributaries--Salsbury Mill Branch at the western section of the district and the Great Mill Branch which forms portions of the southern and eastern district boundaries. As their names suggest, portions of both of these creeks were dammed and used for milling operations in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but today natural vegetation has reclaimed their banks. Smaller streams sometimes begin in the fields on the south side of NC 142 and extend northward to Conoho Creek. They, too, are often bordered by large deciduous trees and dense undergrowth. Some, however, have been dredged and lengthened to provide drainage for the fields. While the southern border of the district is formed by modern property lines, often these lines are also bound within woodlands although in places, the trees have been reforested. The treelines along both the north and south sides of the district create a dramatic backdrop to the fields in front of them.

The road system within the district is relatively unchanged from the early nineteenth century. With nearly all of the large farm houses facing NC 142, it is clear that this road was a well-traversed transportation route probably as early as the Revolution. In fact, this road is referred to as the Williamston-Tarboro road in early nineteenth-century deed records. The secondary roads in the district probably began as farm roads and developed as highways later in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. NC 142 follows the natural curves of the land providing the best view of the primarily unaltered landscape.

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Agricultural development in the district probably began in the late eighteenth century when the fertility of the land along the Roanoke River declined and settlers moved further inland to establish farmsteads. The soil in the district is well suited for cultivation and in fact, is one of the most important agricultural regions in Martin County. The flat, fertile land coupled with the creek and the abundance of forested areas and wildlife, created a prime location to develop substantial, productive farms. Almost all of the inhabitants along the Tarboro-Williamston road were farmers in the nineteenth century. They produced a variety of crops and relied little on cash crop agricultural practices although most planted some cotton for this purpose. Farm acreage ranged in size during the mid-to late-nineteenth century from small ten acre plots to over 1,000 acre farmsteads. Most maintained the majority of their properties in forest land. In the twentieth century with the need for garden vegetables, fruit orchards, livestock, and other foodstuffs declining, these farms began to produce large amounts of cotton, tobacco, and peanuts. Today almost all of the land is leased and cultivated by tenants. Similar to farm sizes 100 years ago, farm acreage is also variable ranging from fifteen acre fields to over 250 acres.

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Situated in the coastal plain of eastern North Carolina in the north central portion of Martin County, the Conoho Creek Historic District embodies the evolving cultural patterns and architectural trends taking place between ca. 1810 and 1947 within the region's predominantly rural agricultural society. Possessing a high degree of integrity, Conoho Creek's historic rural landscape is composed of a remarkable overlay of extant architectural fabric, natural features, transportation networks, and farming patterns. The location of the district on a minor creek provides an excellent view of life in the inland backcountry of eastern North Carolina. Influenced by the abundance of woodlands, fertile soil, and road access to river ports, the Conoho Creek area changed little prior to the Civil War, being primarily an area of subsistence farms only partially dependent on slave labor. Some early dwellings such as the c. 1820 original one-room house at the Ballard-Hyman-Thomas Plantation (#20) were modest. Wealthier farmers such as Joseph R. Ballard and Burr Outterbridge constructed more substantial homes with stylish details. As the century progressed and the value of farms increased, houses like the c. 1830 Sherrod-Best-Fleming House (#14) and the 1850s Greek Revival addition on the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House (#4) became larger and more ornate. Most of the remaining dwellings are essentially unchanged, revealing much about the lifestyles of their former occupants. Family ties, especially between the Outterbridges and the Ballards, along with common interests in religion and education, created a close-knit community in the Conoho Creek district. Following the Civil War, increasing growth of the tenancy rate reduced the size of some farms. Building trends during the period placed new house forms on the landscape. Craftsman Bungalows like the Cherry-Council House (#22), became more common as did simple, one-story farmhouses such as the Haislip House (#27).

Today the district contains a remarkable cross section of both domestic and farm related outbuildings that spans the period of significance and complements the agricultural history of the rural historic landscape. Exceptionally fine examples of smokehouses, packhouses, dairy, washhouse, and tobacco barns dating from the antebellum period to the early twentieth century are common. The hewn log kitchen and smokehouse at the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks Plantation (#30H and 30I), and the hewn smokehouse at the Outterbridge-White Farm (#2B) are the few examples of this building material in Martin County. The Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks Plantation also contains the only antebellum carriage house in the county (#30B). Most of the outbuildings in the district are in their original location and illustrate the importance of site plan on a farm from the early nineteenth century onward. The best examples appear at the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks Plantation (#30), the Outterbridge-Everett Farm (#6), the Outterbridge-White Farm (#2), and Coltrain-Roberson Farm (#8). Crop production trends mirrored other inland regions of eastern North Carolina with subsistence crops and a strong timber and naval store industry dominating through the turn of the twentieth century when the cash crops of cotton, tobacco and peanuts became the norm. The remaining schoolhouses and general store in the district reflect the development of the small, farming

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community of Hassell which borders the western edge of the district. Transportation within the Conoho Creek Historic District focused mainly on present day NC 142 which began as a post road connecting Tarboro with Edenton in the late eighteenth century. The secondary roads began as farm roads and did not develop as formal transportation routes until the nineteenth century. Conoho Creek itself served as a site for mills, a refuge for wildlife and fish, and a source of pine and cypress for the extensive shingle, naval stores, and timber industry in Martin County. Today the district contains a variety of homes that reflect architectural trends, from the sophisticated Federal and Greek Revival styles of the nineteenth century to the plainer forms of the twentieth century. It also includes a wide range of domestic and agricultural outbuildings spanning the period of significance. The overall integrity of the Conoho Creek Historic District's agricultural and natural landscapes, its farm complexes, its educational and commercial buildings, and its transportation network, constitute an important view of the social, agricultural, and architectural character of the coastal plain of eastern North Carolina from ca. 1810 to 1947.

Historical Background and Social History Context

While the first white settlers in Martin County, mainly of English descent, established their homes along the Roanoke River beginning in the late seventeenth century, the Conoho Creek Historic District, was probably not occupied by Anglo-Americans until the mid-eighteenth century as the land along the Roanoke River located to the north of this area became overused and overpopulated. Certainly by the formation of the county in 1774, there was substantial settlement throughout its borders. Early eighteenth-century residents in the Conoho Creek area included William Outterbridge, one of the commissioners who determined the original county boundary lines, Robert Sherrod, and several members of the Ballard family.

While Conoho Creek may have served as a minor navigable waterway, perhaps as a means to float logs or flatboats to ports along the Roanoke River, the main transportation route throughout the area's history is clearly present-day NC 142. Farms from all periods are oriented to this road. This highway was an eighteenth-century early post road which connected Edenton (incorporated 1722) to Tarboro (incorporated 1760) via Williamston (incorporated 1779).¹ In an 1801 Outterbridge deed, this road is called the Tarborough Road. Later in the nineteenth century, deed records most often refer to it as the Tarboro to Williamston Road, but with the establishment of Hassell in 1890, it became the Williamston-Hassell Road--its common name today. While the 1818 map of Martin County does not show this road, it does illustrate another route which began in Williamston and more or less followed present day U.S. Highway 64/13 roughly to the modern town of Everetts. From here it turned north up the Spring Green Road and perhaps became SR 1313 which runs through William Outterbridge's original land between what was most likely his house site and the c. 1810 Outterbridge-Everett Farm (#6). This road crosses Conoho Creek and continued north to Hamilton. SR 1002 was an early road connecting the western farms of the district to the port towns of Hogtown

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and Hamilton.² The 1833 MacRae-Brazier map of North Carolina shows two roads resembling NC 142 and SR 1002. The Ballard family owned land on both sides of this crossroads and established large farmsteads here as early as 1800. It is referred to as Ballard's Old Cross Roads in an 1885 deed and also as Dogsville Crossroads in the 1903 act incorporating Hassell. SR 1312 appears to have been a farm road for the late nineteenth-century Salsbury Farm which later connected NC 142 with the town of Gold Point (established 1899).

While Conoho Creek may not have been used as a major waterway, settlers established at least two substantial mills on its branches as early as 1783. The mill located at the eastern edge of the district is now part of the Outterbridge-White Farm (#2). The branch known as the Great Branch in late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century deeds, flows north under NC 142 into Conoho Creek. In 1783 William Outterbridge sold an acre of land containing the mill pond to John Butler who apparently began operating the mill at this point. By 1799 Simon Butler, most likely a relative of John's, was operating the mill as the branch is referred to as "the run of Simon Butler's Mill Branch commonly called Great Branch where the road leading to Tarborough crosses the said Branch."³ The mill, along with another just to the north, is also present on the 1833 MacRae-Brazier map of North Carolina. Stephen Outterbridge's 1848 will again mentions the mill although it is not assigned a name. An 1862 and 1868 accounts, however, referred to it as Outterbridge's mill where members of Spring Green Primitive Baptist Church were baptized. Francis Manning in his Martin County History claimed it was later called Coffield's mill.⁴ An 1863 map (Exhibit A) of the area clearly shows a dam and large mill pond at this location. The 1870 census lists a sixty-four-year-old African-American miller named Jordan Floyd living just three houses away from Stephen W. Outterbridge of the Outterbridge-White House (#2). The 1880 census shows Benjamin Hitchens, a sixty-seven year old mulatto miller, living adjacent to Stephen W. Outterbridge. This is the last written account of the mill. The large mounds of earth on either side of the branch and several cut logs in the creek suggest that the mill has not been long gone.

The second mill was located at the complete opposite end of the Conoho Creek Historic District on another branch of the creek, today known as Salsbury Mill Branch. The earliest mention of this mill is in an 1812 deed in which Silas Ballard sold 200 acres of land on the south side of the Mill Swamp to Isham Ballard.⁵ It is also present on the MacRae-Brazier map at the juncture of present day SR 1002 and the creek branch. In James Salsbury's 1864 will, the branch is called Juniper Run. Here on Salsbury's land stood a saw and grist mill as well as a miller's house. A map from 1863 (Exhibit A) marks a site north of the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks House (#30) as Salsbury's Mill. The 1870 Industrial Census lists the water-powered mill as producing meal and plank and scantling from pine and cypress logs. An 1871 deed mentions that it supported a saw and grist mill as well as a gin house and press. Like the mill on the Outterbridge property, it is not certain how long it operated.

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As the nineteenth century progressed, more and more farms began to appear along the Tarboro to Williamston Road. By 1850, there were as many as thirty-six different households. Life was prosperous for many of the farmers. When Burr Outterbridge died in 1819, he left his wife, Druscilla "two white horses, one half dozen country made chairs, one half dozen stool chairs, four beds," and a variety of livestock.⁶ Joseph R. Ballard had a carriage house and large stable. The china closet with glass pane window was displayed prominently in the hall and could hardly go unnoticed as one entered the front door. Its location certainly suggests that Ballard had a collection of decorative items he wished to place on view for all. James Salsbury who later occupied the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks house from the 1840s until his death in 1864 was probably the wealthiest man in the district during the antebellum period. He not only administered a productive farm, he also operated a brandy still, apple mill, saw mill and grist mill. His estate inventory lists a multitude of items--from inexpensive household items like jars, frying pans, jugs, baskets, pots, wash stands, candle molds, and gourds to farm implements, livestock, and bushels of corn, potatoes, black-eyed peas, and wheat and finally, more valuable objects such as spinning wheels, walnut tables, thirty-one chairs, bedsteads, decanters, brandy, and saddles. In many wills from the district, some items are carefully assigned to descendants giving researchers a sense of the value of certain objects. Guns, both double and single barreled, were generally mentioned specifically in wills, as were horses, and sometimes specific pieces of furniture. Bedsteads, typically the most expensive piece of furniture in a house in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, were the most common furniture mentioned. In the case of James Salsbury, he left a gun to each of his sons and his son, Robert, also received a bedstead and a writing desk.⁷

Families were somewhat large in the Conoho Creek area. Four to six children per household was common into the mid-nineteenth century although James Salsbury had eight children and William R. Hyman had seven. The census shows that on several occasions, widows continued to live with their grown children. For example, Winiford Outterbridge, wife of Stephen Outterbridge, lived with her daughter and husband, Mary Eliza and William S. Briley, in the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House in the 1860s. The Conoho Creek district appears to have been a close-knit community in the antebellum period. In his letters dating from the 1850s to the 1870s, Stephen W. Outterbridge makes frequent references about the health of his neighbors and describes visits with them.⁸ Like other small communities, families along NC 142 also intermarried. Burr Outterbridge's daughter, Nancy married Lemuel Ballard, son of Silas Ballard who probably lived in the Ballard-Hyman-Thomas House (#20). In 1884 their son Joseph L. Ballard married Winiford Briley who may have been the sister of William S. Briley of the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House (#4).⁹ Apparently the Outterbridges were also related to the Skiles family who lived near the mill on the Great Branch. Stephen W. Outterbridge mentions that Druscilla Skiles was his cousin in his letters. The Skiles were also close to the Salsburys and in fact, Martha Skiles, a forty-five-year-old seamstress, lived with James Salsbury and his family in 1860.¹⁰

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Less is known about the slave community in the Conoho Creek district. Each of the wealthy farmers along the road owned at least six slaves in 1850 and 1860, yet only a few of their names are known. On average, four slaves lived together in houses on the farms in 1860.¹¹ The only intimate view of the Conoho Creek slaves comes from brief mentions in wills and letters. Silas Ballard of the Ballard-Hyman-Thomas Farm (#20) provided in his 1837 will that his slaves only be sold "within this settlement" assuring that they would not be separated by great distance from their families and friends.¹² This also reveals that slaves living along the road were not always confined to the individual farms and allowed to have some contact with others off of their properties. In an 1857 letter written by Stephen W. Outterbridge to his aunt, Sarah Outterbridge May, in Tennessee, he recounts a night when his aunt and their cousin Druscilla Skiles attempted to play a joke on their slaves, Fanny and Moses, a married couple who lived in a house between the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House and the Outterbridge-Everett House. Sarah and Druscilla dressed as men with beards made from "a peculiar touch from the chimney back." Each carried a gun and entered the door of the "hunble cottage" using "an altered tone of voice approaching as near as practicable, the masculine." Fanny, who was alone, was "to some degree frightened and astonished at the unexpected presence of strange gentlemen with guns in hand, whose mission was unknown to her. But the mystery was soon solved. The ejaculations of laughter...burst...and the old servant participated with us in the consequential glee."¹³

Members of this community were also interlinked through their religious beliefs. Spring Green Primitive Baptist Church, located within a mile of the eastern end of the district, was established in 1811 and attracted several members from this community. Members of the Hyman and Outterbridge families were active in this church in the mid- and late nineteenth century. Most of Stephen W. Outterbridge's letters concern the church and he often mentions his neighbors attending with him. The farm road which runs between Stephen's land and that of the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis Farm closely linked the two farms with the church. Other families, like the Salsburys attended Hamilton Methodist Church.¹⁴

Education was also an important element in the Conoho Creek district from the antebellum period through the early twentieth century. William R. Hyman taught as early as 1840 when he was paid to teach Starkey Skiles, a neighborhood boy who lived near the Outterbridges. In 1843 James Salsbury donated an acre of land for the construction of a common school. Teachers at the school probably included James' son, John, and William R. Hyman who was listed as a teacher in the 1860 census. The school building (#30M) still stands on this property today. Children in the neighborhood began school as early as seven years and many continued until the age of eighteen.¹⁵

Stephen Outterbridge began his distinguished career as a teacher as early as 1845 at the age of twenty. He first taught in Hamilton and when he moved to his new house around 1850, he continued his teaching and opened an academy for day and boarding students. The school became known as

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Mimosa Academy or Outterbridge Academy and it was reknowned throughout the region. He continued to teach here until 1885 when he moved to Robersonville. Outterbridge retired from teaching in 1900 after serving as an educator in Martin County for fifty years.¹⁶

While most members of the community were farmers in the nineteenth century, there are several who held other occupations. There were, of course, millers who operated the two mills in the district. In the 1850s, there also appears to be a small community of craftsman living near the mill at the Outterbridges. Residing next to one another were two carpenters and a mechanic. At the opposite end of the district was another grouping of craftsman including a coachmaker, saddler, buggymaker, and carpenter along with a merchant which suggests that the area around Hassell was already developing into a small village. The 1860 census shows carpenters, a speculator, seamstresses, shinglers, and swamphands living in or near the district.

Farms in the eighteenth and nineteenth century were self sufficient. Almost all farmers produced corn, sweet potatoes, peas, vegetables, and butter and they usually owned at least one milk cow along with work oxen, hogs, beef cattle, and sheep. Only a few farmers grew wheat or cotton before 1860. In his 1864 estate inventory James Salsbury, the wealthiest man in the district, had, along with the usual foodstuffs, brandy, geese, and sorghum. His inventory also shows that farmers used their yields to make candles, raw hides, and cloth with spinning wheels and looms.

The effects of the Civil War on Conoho Creek were significant within its economic and social structure. Farms were increasingly divided and the rate of tenancy rose significantly. In 1880 half of all farms in the Hamilton Township were operated by tenants. By 1900 seventy-five percent of farms were rented.¹⁷ Agricultural production continued to center around corn, potatoes, peas, and other subsistence crops, but with increasing emphasis on cotton. The largest producers of cotton in the district was William E. Best, of the Sherrod-Best-Fleming Farm (#14), who cultivated seventy bales in 1880, but the wages he paid amounted to half of his farm value. Other top producers of cotton in 1880 included S. B. Horton with thirty-one bales and B. L. C. Bryant with seventeen bales. Most farmers grew a much smaller amount averaging two or three bales. By the early twentieth century, tobacco and peanuts began to overtake cotton as cash crops increasing the value of farms in Martin County from \$1,582,179 in 1900 to \$14,407,711 in 1920.¹⁸

Throughout the nineteenth century, the African-American population remained fairly constant at around fifty percent in the Hamilton Township. In 1900, sixty-five percent of the households in the township were African-American and only seven owned their farms. In the Conoho Creek Historic District, the statistics were similar. Many African-Americans who owned their homes in the early twentieth century were members of the Council, Chance, and Cherry families. One of the most prominent African-American landowners in the Conoho Creek district was Boston Cherry (1844-1901) who bought almost 300 acres from John Best's heirs in 1884. Boston operated this

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large farm with the help of his wife and fourteen children. A few years after his death, in 1911, Boston's 324-acre tract was divided into fifteen long, narrow parcels ranging in size from twelve to thirty acres. This process of the dividing land into small parcels so that each heir can own a portion, no matter how small, was a typical practice in rural, African-American communities. Often the "heir land" continued to be subdivided in subsequent generations. As in Boston Cherry's case, his descendants still own these parcels. There are also several farmsteads which remain, including the Cherry-Council House (#22), built by Boston's son John William Cherry (1873-1963) around 1911 and the Mack Best House (#21), constructed by Boston's grandson also around 1911. The largest cemetery in the district (#18) contains the graves of Boston and a number of his children and grandchildren.¹⁹

As in the antebellum period, education in the Conoho Creek Historic District played an important role in the community into the twentieth century. Stephen W. Outterbridge operated his school out of his home until 1885 when he moved to Robersonville. Sycamore Grove School (#30K) replaced the Salsbury School around 1900 in what was then the community of Sycamore Grove, later known as Hassell. This building was later replaced by a larger structure known as Hassell School in the late 1920s or early 1930s.²⁰

Spring Green Primitive Baptist Church continued to draw members from the Conoho Creek Historic District in the postbellum period. Stephen W. Outterbridge was ordained as a deacon in 1870. His letters dating from this period are filled with numerous accounts of church activities many of which involved his neighbors. The White family who moved into Outterbridge's house in the early twentieth century, was also active in Spring Green Church. Alton White, although not a minister, often preached at the church. Other families in the Conoho Creek District involved in Spring Green included the Coffields and the Edmundsons. Residents at the western end of the district often traveled to churches in Hamilton to worship. The Haislips and the Salsburys, for example, attended Hamilton Methodist Church.²¹

Changes in transportation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Martin County altered agricultural and social activities in the Conoho Creek Historic District. The Kinston Branch of the Atlantic Coastline Railroad Company completed its route through the present day town of Hassell in 1890. This route connected Kinston to Halifax and from there to points further north into Virginia. In that year, the community gained a post office, called Sycamore Grove. The railroad provided easy access to markets for farmers in the Conoho Creek district which, in turn, prompted an increase in field and timber production. In 1896 there were three general stores in the town and by 1903 Sycamore Grove was incorporated as Hassell. In 1906 the town had acquired a saloon and three cotton gins, yet the population only equaled ninety. In the 1930s, passenger rail traffic ended in Martin County.²² The tracks themselves were removed in the mid-1980s. Another significant factor leading to Hassell's decline is the rerouting of NC Highway 11 in the 1930s to a distance two miles

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west of the town, essentially cutting off automobile traffic traveling along the highway.²³ Today Hassell contains two churches, a post office, and one general store.

Prior to Martin County's entry into the Good Roads Movement in the 1910s, 418 of the 425 miles of the county's roads were listed as unimproved. In 1914, Hamilton Township approved a bond issue to improve their roads and, while some roads were graded, it was not until the 1930s when the state took over the entire road system, did the routes through the Conoho Creek district receive much maintenance. The only paved roads in the county were present-day U.S. Highway 64 and 125 into Hamilton. By 1949 NC 142 was paved, but the secondary roads intersecting it remained only graded and drained.²⁴

To date, the division of property through inheritance or sale has not overridden the value of the land as an agricultural asset, leaving the agricultural landscape of Conoho Creek much as it was throughout the nineteenth century. Located far enough away from the urban reaches of Hamilton, Robersonville, and Williamston, the Conoho Creek Historic District faces no immediate threat of development. The land is still actively farmed and in recent years local property owners have begun to undertake preservation and restoration initiatives to save the old farm dwellings.

Agricultural Context

Created in 1774 from parts of Halifax and Tyrrell counties, Martin County's initial development stemmed from the Roanoke River which forms its northern border. A deep navigable river, the Roanoke was a major transportation route early in North Carolina's history. Goods were floated downriver from northern sections of the state and from parts of southern Virginia to the Albemarle Sound and then onto larger markets. Lured to the accessible waterway and its fertile banks, settlers established farms along the river in Martin County beginning in the late seventeenth century. Most large farms were first located in the western part of the county between present day Hamilton and Palmyra.

While the first settlers shipped minimal amounts of field crops to market, many did take advantage of the abundance of woodlands in the county and engaged in the production of naval stores, wood staves, and shingles which were exported. In fact, until around 1740 when prices declined and production virtually stopped, tar was the principal item of export in Martin County. By 1755 larger farming operations became more common in the county, which prompted the state legislature to create four inspection stations along the Roanoke River in present day Martin County. Here hemp, flax, flaxseed, pork, beef, rice, flour, indigo, butter, tar, pitch, turpentine, staves, heading, lumber, shingles, and deerskins were inspected before moving onto larger ports. There are also reports in the 1750s of tobacco grown in Martin County being sent to Norfolk, Virginia for

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inspection. Cattle and hogs were also either shipped or herded to Norfolk for slaughter during this period.²⁵

As the land along the Roanoke River began to show signs of overuse and sterility, farmers in the late eighteenth century moved further inland to the well-drained, fertile lands along the tributaries of the Roanoke, principally Flat Swamp and Conoho Creeks. The Conoho Creek Historic District was probably first settled by Anglo-Americans in the mid-eighteenth century and certainly, by the third quarter of the century, a significant number of settlers including William Outterbridge, an early Martin County leader and farmer, had established farms here. The land in the district consists of some of the best agricultural soil in the county. Its topography is flat, yet well-drained and therefore, suited for crop production. Although the creek bottoms flood regularly, they do support an abundance of fish and wildlife as well as stands of trees including cypress, oak, tupelo gum, ash, poplar, and sweet gum.²⁶ These woodlands, along with the pine and hardwood forests located further away from the creek, provided plenty of sources for timber and naval store production in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. While it can be speculated that the creek itself may have provided some transportational needs for the district such as floating logs to mills in the port town of Williamston (incorporated in 1779) and for processing or moving crops to river ports on small flatboats, it is not certain how extensively it was used for this purpose. Because the creek follows such a winding path for some twenty miles to the Roanoke River just above Williamston, it seems more likely that residents used an overland route to Hogtown which was one of the first inspection stations established in 1755 on the Roanoke River. Sited just below present day Hamilton (incorporated in 1804), Hogtown was only three miles to the north and easily accessible by well-traveled roads as early as 1818.²⁷

By 1825 the district contained a number of large farmsteads including at least two Outterbridge farms--Burr Outterbridge's 400 acre plantation (Outterbridge-Everett Farm, #6) and his brother Stephen's farm (possibly the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis Farm, #4), probably of similar size--and two Ballard homes--Isham or Silas's home (Ballard-Hyman-Thomas Farm, #20) which equaled around 360 acres and Joseph R. Ballard's plantation of over 300 acres (Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks Plantation, #30). To maintain this amount of acreage, farmers in the district during this period relied on slave labor. From 1787 to 1830 most of the large landholders owned at least nine and as many as twenty-one slaves. This placed them above the average Martin County landowner who held two slaves in 1810. In that year, however, half of the 617 households owned at least one slave.²⁸

While there are no records which document the exact crops cultivated by the farmers in the district in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, they were probably producing the same crops as farmers in the remainder of the county. In all likelihood, they maintained subsistence farms and engaged in the timber and naval stores industry. The two mills on the creek suggests that corn

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and possibly wheat were grown nearby and processed here. The mill near the Outterbridge Farm (#2) existed as early as 1783 when it is mentioned in a deed between William Outterbridge and John Butler whose family operated the mill. The Salsbury mill first appears in deed records in 1812. In a 1799 deed, Stephen Outterbridge sold William Skiles 300 acres on Conoho Creek on the condition that he allow his brother Burr a cartway through the parcel to his creek lowgrounds, which suggests that the area bordering the creek supported an important resource such as timber. These creek lowgrounds were significant enough to gain specific mention in Burr's 1819 will in which he gave the land to his sons, Stephen and Joseph.²⁹

Agriculture in Martin County in the nineteenth century lagged behind many other North Carolina counties in terms of its field crop production. Residents continued to rely heavily on timber resources for income throughout the nineteenth century. In 1850 there were two naval store operations and eleven shingle manufacturing centers in the county. Three of those mills employed ten people.³⁰ The crops Martin County farmers did cultivate exhausted much of the county's once fertile soil and many residents began moving west to the vast expanses of land in the Old Southwest. In fact, the county actually lost over 1,300 white and black residents between 1830 and 1840. It was not until the 1850s, that farmers begin to give more attention to field production. Even though tar and shingles were still the number one export in Martin County in 1859, farmers also produced significant amounts of both sweet and Irish potatoes, peas, and corn and raised livestock such as cattle, swine, and sheep. Some also experimented with wheat, rye, rice, and cotton. During the decade between 1850 and 1860, there was also a significant rise in population. The total population rose from 8,307 in 1850 to 10,195 in 1860 and the number of slaves increased from 3,367 to 4,761.³¹

Changes in agriculture can be contributed to a number of factors. The rise in the volume of river traffic, namely the introduction of steamboats, on the Roanoke River allowed greater access to trade and more incentive to produce a variety of marketable goods. Farmers also began making improvements to their land by digging drainage ditches and planting hedgerows. The utilization of fertilizers, first advertised in the Williamston newspapers in the 1850s, increased in popularity. During this period in Martin County, agricultural societies first developed providing farmers with an opportunity to discuss and share new farming methods.³²

One of the instigators of these agricultural changes may have been Stephen William Outterbridge, a prominent legislator and teacher who operated an academy in the Outterbridge-White House (#2) for nearly thirty years. Outterbridge was also a farmer who read agricultural journals and texts extensively and wholeheartedly encouraged neighbors to alter their ingrained attitudes toward farming. He viewed agriculture as an art and a science and urged his fellow agrarians to experiment with the new methods. By 1853 he appeared to be actively involved in an agricultural society in Martin County and outlined his beliefs in several documents which are now located in Bryant Bennett's papers at Duke University. Outterbridge chided the "good old plan" handed down from

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generation to generation in which farmers tilled the same fields, depriving the land of its nutrients and eventually leaving it unproductive. He dissuaded farmers from solving their problems by "severing the ties of the home of our childhood and the golden links of mutual friendship with relatives and friends to venture an untried home in the wilds of the west." Outterbridge offered solutions to the farming dilemma of the period. He encouraged his peers to read agricultural journals such as the "Farmer's Journal," the only one of its kind in North Carolina in 1853, and join agricultural societies to learn how to restore worn out lands, increase the fertility of existing fields, and improve stock. He offered much advice on the use of fertilizers available close at hand. "Now we have but to search the bowel of the earth on our premises...explore the swamps and branches... look to the horse and cow lots and barnyard." He highly recommended "swamp muck" combined with lime, marl, or ash as a fertilizer. "Swamp muck" also absorbed odors in "barns, styles, sinks, reservoirs, and cellars, leaving the atmosphere elastic and pure." With the expanse of the Conoho Creek lowlands nearby, certainly there was enough "swamp muck" around to serve this purpose. Outterbridge seemed to have followed his own advice, for in 1860 he produced eleven bales of cotton along with 450 bushels of corn, seventy bushels of wheat, and forty-six bushels of potatoes all on seventy-five acres of improved land--a remarkable feat.³³

Like the remainder of the county, agriculture in the Conoho Creek Historic District also changed during the antebellum period. The population increased along the post road as did the number of slaves. Between 1850 and 1860, most farmers saw a rise in the value of their farms which may be attributed to the increase in cotton production. While the 1850 agricultural census shows little cotton being grown in the district, it is known that a one-half acre lot located on the "Hamilton to Tarborough Road" containing a "cotton gin screw, cotton house, and shelters" was sold to Bryant Bennett from Joseph Waldo in 1843. The amount of cotton harvested expanded in the decade between 1850 to 1860 from almost nothing to generally at least a few bales per farmer and some, like George T. Outterbridge, Stephen W. Outterbridge's younger brother, grew as much as forty bales. Farmers remained self-sufficient producing corn, peas, potatoes, and fruit and raising a variety of livestock.³⁴

As with the remainder of the South, the Civil War and Reconstruction brought significant changes to the agricultural economy of Martin County. The population of the county fell from 10,195 in 1860 to 9,647 in 1870. Improved farm acreage also decreased during this decade from 56,072 to 48,840 acres, as did the value of farm implements from \$34,485 in 1860 to \$26,120 in 1870. Tenant farming arose during this period and continued to dominate the agricultural economy of the county well into the twentieth century, and a cash crop system of farming began to firmly take root.³⁵

By 1880, the county began to restore its agricultural health. The amount of cultivated land increased by 8,200 acres between 1870 and 1880. The number one crop continued to be corn, and

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farmers also produced the same variety of crops as during the antebellum period, but with much more emphasis on cotton. Census statistics for the Hamilton township, which includes the Conoho Creek area, show that over those twenty years, farmers began to rely more and more on mules as their work animals rather, than oxen. While they still raised dairy and beef cows, hogs, and poultry, there was a dramatic drop in the number of sheep on farms in 1880 as opposed to 1860 when nearly every farmer owned a few. In the Conoho Creek district, there were several successful farmers. In 1872 both William E. Best of the Sherrod-Best-Fleming Farm (#14) and William R. Hyman of the Ballard-Hyman-Thomas Farm (# 20) were listed as two of the most productive farmers in the Hamilton township, owning 422 and 370 acres respectively.³⁶

Ranked just behind corn as the most common crop grown in Martin County, cotton was an important cash crop until the 1920s, when the market fell and the boll weevil invaded. Farmers in Martin County, however, had new crops to compensate for the loss. Peanuts were first reported in the county just after the Civil War, but were not an important crop until the 1890s when 841 acres were planted in Martin County. The introduction of the mechanical picker and the research of George Washington Carver in the 1890s, prompted a peanut boom in North Carolina and Martin County by the 1910s. Over 16,000 acres were planted in 1910, making it the second most important cash crop in Martin County, and it maintained this position through the mid-twentieth century. Some of the peanuts were used as fodder for hogs while the rest was shipped to peanut processors in Norfolk and Suffolk, Virginia. Although some tobacco was raised by the early settlers in Martin County, it was not grown in any substantial quantities until the 1890s when almost 2,000 acres per year were planted. The acreage and amount of tobacco continued to increase through the 1970s. As a result of the boom in peanut and tobacco crops, the value of the average farm in Martin County rose dramatically from \$1,582,179 in 1900 to \$14,407,711 in 1920.³⁷

By the 1920s, commercial fertilizers and modern farm implements were used by nearly all farmers in Martin County. As in the preceding centuries, farmers relied on cash crops such as peanuts, cotton, tobacco, and some sweet potatoes, and they also cultivated subsistence crops like corn, oats, peas, wheat, vegetables, and fruit. Just as before most farmers kept a few beef cattle, milk cows, and hogs for home consumption. Most of the early- to mid-twentieth century outbuildings which remain today in the Conoho Creek area are primarily related to tobacco production suggesting, that this was indeed an important crop here.³⁸

The growth of farm tenancy in Martin County, like the rest of the South, was remarkable. In 1880 tenants operated more than a third of farms in North Carolina. Between 1880 and 1910 the number of farms in Martin County increased 171.2 percent, while the total number of acres under cultivation rose only 13.1 percent. In the Hamilton Township, almost half of farmers rented their land. By 1900 only twenty-five percent owned their own land and only seven of those were African-Americans. The growth in tenant farming was even more pronounced after the introduction

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of tobacco and peanut cash crops. Tenant-operated farms more than doubled in Martin County from 1900 to 1920, from 556 to 1,222.³⁹

While cultivated crops were an important economic mainstay in Martin County into the twentieth century, forest products still prevailed. An 1896 North Carolina State Department report showed that the lumber industry along with fishing were still the most prominent agricultural products. Certainly in the Conoho Creek area this appears also to be the case. James Salsbury's saw mill on a branch of Conoho Creek produced pine and cypress planks and scantlings as early as 1870.⁴⁰ The 1880 census shows that all farmers in the district produced at least some amount of wood for profit. In 1895 the Tarboro Southerner reported that a train load of logs was shipped to Norfolk everyday from the depot in Hassell, suggesting that the lumber industry was booming in this area.⁴¹ Hassell also had a sawmill by 1903. Evidently the timber industry remained an important aspect of this community well into the twentieth century. In 1936, the North Carolina State Department of Conservation and Development erected one of the two fire towers (#28) here. Fire towers were generally constructed near vast expanses of forested land which was primarily cultivated for commercial gain.⁴²

The coming of the Kinston branch of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad in 1890 most certainly affected both the lumber and the field production in the Conoho Creek area. While Hassell was not incorporated until 1903, a post office opened here the year the railroad began service through the area. The town quickly grew into a shipping and trading center. By the year of its incorporation, there were two cotton gins in town suggesting that a substantial amount of the crop was cultivated in the fields nearby.

Architectural Context

Throughout Martin County's history, most of its built environment has been either directly related to or influenced by its agrarian economy. The first settlers constructed homes and farm buildings near the Roanoke River. As the population increased and the riverfront soil became overused and sterile, people moved inland, building homes on land suitable for farming, logging, fishing, and hunting.

Until the early nineteenth century, small subsistence farms were typical in Martin County. With the introduction of the cotton gin and increased trade on the river, many small farms developed into large operations, requiring the help of extensive slave labor. It is during this period that landowners created a more formal definition to the landscape. Domestic areas, quarters, and farm yards were carefully planned, as was the approach to the farm seat. By the turn of the twentieth

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century, land was increasingly divided into smaller tenant farms and the farm layouts reflected the new conveniences of the century, as well as mechanized forms of agriculture.

Frame construction utilizing mortise-and-tenon joinery was the norm for early buildings in Martin County and the district. Logs were also used in the construction of houses, churches, schools, and farm buildings, but there is scant evidence of them today in Martin County.⁴³ There are, however, four remaining examples of hewn log buildings in the county, and three of those are in the Conoho Creek district: the smokehouse at the Outterbridge-White Farm (#2B) constructed around 1850, and the kitchen and smokehouse at the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks Plantation (#30H and 30I) both built around 1810. Brick was limited to foundations and chimneys. All materials including lumber, bricks, shingles, and nails, were initially fashioned by hand. One of the earliest saw mills in the county operated in the 1840s along the Roanoke River near Hamilton. In 1850 there were two water-powered sawmills in the county and eleven shingling operations.⁴⁴ The Hamilton Steam Mill (also called the Hamilton Shingle Factory) operated in Hamilton as early as 1854. Several residents of the Conoho Creek district including William S. Briley, Stephen W. Outterbridge along with his brother George and his aunt Nancy, purchased lumber, plank, pine flooring, weatherboards, and scantling from the mill in 1854.⁴⁵

Period styles were usually illustrated in exterior and interior woodwork details added to typical vernacular house forms such as I-houses and coastal cottages. Like other sections of eastern North Carolina, styles in Martin County were slow to develop. During the first half of the nineteenth century, these styles typically ranged from transitional Georgian/Federal to Greek Revival. After the Civil War, local mills began mass-producing building materials, and millwork began to conform to popular styles. The most sophisticated of the Victorian styles--the Queen Anne and Eastlake--were more often seen in towns like Williamston, Hamilton, and Robersonville rather than rural areas, although certain elements were often incorporated onto vernacular farmhouses. The Craftsman Bungalow were more prevalent in the countryside through the mid-twentieth century.

Early houses in Martin County dating to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries often consisted of single pile, one-story buildings occasionally constructed with a habitable attic. The oldest dwelling in Martin County, the original section of the Whitley House near Williamston, dates to the last quarter of the eighteenth century and consists of a one-over-one house with an enclosed stair rising from a rear corner to the second level room. Many early houses were later added onto or incorporated into larger homes.⁴⁶ This was the case in two homes in the Conoho Creek Historic District. The original sections of the Ballard-Hyman-Thomas House (#20) and the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks House (#30) are two of the oldest dwellings in the district. Built around 1810 and 1820, respectively, as one and one-half story dwellings with steeply pitched roofs and exterior end chimneys, these buildings were later converted to kitchens when the larger homes were constructed later in the nineteenth century.

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Other early homes in Martin County were larger single-pile buildings with a two-room, hall and parlor plan and occasionally, a habitable attic. Often called coastal cottages, these homes had steeply pitched side-gable roofs with one or two exterior end chimneys and a semi- or fully engaged porch. Many were later expanded with a shed addition to the rear, or by enclosing a section of the porch. Examples of these continued to be built in Martin County into the second quarter of the twentieth century. Two-story houses became more common by the early 1800s, but were usually constructed by wealthier farmers. They were also single-pile homes with a hall and parlor or less typically, a center hall plan. By the mid-nineteenth century, central hall plans in both one- and two-story homes were common. Like the one-story coastal cottages, these I-houses were also expanded with shed additions and rear ells. Porches on the early houses were usually front gable porticos sheltering only the main entrance.⁴⁷

Each of the six antebellum farm houses in the Conoho Creek Historic District vary in form, plan, and style, but they also exemplify rural vernacular building tradition in early nineteenth-century Martin County. Dwellings associated with the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis Farm (#4) and the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks Plantation (#30) contain elements of both Georgian and Federal styles. The original section of the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House, constructed around 1815, is essentially a two-story I-house with a center hall plan and exterior double paved shouldered chimneys. The windows are attenuated six-over-six sash with two-part surrounds. Its first floor mantels are composed of three flat panels surmounted with stacked shelves. The walls are sheathed with flat-paneled wainscot with a two-part chair rail topped with ovolo molding. Also built around 1810, the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks House is a one and one-half story dwelling with a steeply pitched side-gable roof and a side hall plan. This house is double pile and once contained a front-gable portico. Interior details such as the china closet, with a glass pane door over the stair closet along with the pegboards on the walls in the hall are the only examples of such features in the county. The mantels of five raised panels with stacked shelves, punch-work and dentil detailing on frieze, and fluted pilasters provide an element of style and sophistication not seen in most homes dating from this period.

Other dwellings in the Conoho Creek Historic District also display characteristics of the Federal style. The Outterbridge-Everett House (#6), built around 1810 and the Sherrod-Best-Fleming House (#14), built slightly later in 1830, are both two-story I-houses with beaded weatherboards on the main facade. Simple front-gable porticos once graced the front entrances of both homes, but the Outterbridge porch was altered in the early twentieth century, although its ghost marks still remain. Both contain flat-paneled wainscots and outstanding examples of Federal mantels, each with fluted pilasters and diagonal reeding. The central hall plan Outterbridge-Everett House contains remarkable exterior woodworking including paneled corner pilasters which rise to scalloped caps. Its flush-gable ends are trimmed with two-part tapered rake boards. The Sherrod-Best-Fleming

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House has a hall and parlor plan accessed by a robust nine-panel door surmounted by a five-light transom.

The Greek Revival style is also represented in the Conoho Creek district by the Outterbridge-White Farm (#2), the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House (#4), and the Ballard-Hyman-Thomas House (#20). All are different in plan and form, but they each possess varying degrees of the style. The least ornate dwelling of this period is the one-story Outterbridge-White House (c. 1850). This coastal cottage has a center hall plan and Greek Revival details such as tapered rake boards and broad corner pilasters with simple capitals, two-paneled doors, and plain post and lintel mantels. The Ballard-Hyman-Thomas House, built nearly at the same time as the Outterbridge-White House, is a two-story dwelling with a side hall plan--a rare example of this form in Martin County in a house constructed this late in the nineteenth century. Also atypical is the double row of sidelights flanking the entrance. The porch was once a double-tiered portico, but has since been altered. Greek Revival elements include the boxed cornices with end returns, post and lintel mantels, fluted door and window surrounds with cornerblocks, and a transverse stair with a square newel and thin, square balusters. The third Greek Revival example is the c. 1850s addition to the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House. It is a massive building, two-stories in height with a habitable attic. This is the only dwelling in the district to feature Italianate style decorative elements, namely the elaborate brackets under the wide eaves and the trabeated, double-leaf entrance. The brackets also appear on the eaves of the flat roof portico which once featured fluted columns and a cutwork balustrade. Other details are more polished than those in the other homes and include an open stair with wave pattern step and brackets, wide baseboards, fluted door and window surrounds with cornerblocks and plinths, and austere post and lintel mantels. These details coupled with the Federal and Georgian elements of the original portion of the house make this home one of the most interesting studies of style in Martin County.

Following the Civil War and into the twentieth century, architecture styles and forms in Martin County, like the rest of the nation, changed dramatically. The introduction of railroads along with the booming tobacco and peanut crops created profound changes on the landscape with the development of new towns and substantial growth of others and the alterations in the layout of farms and the types of outbuildings. While traditional heavy timber framing building methods persisted even as late as 1880 in Martin County, balloon framing became the norm beginning in the 1870s. Lumber companies producing various types of building materials became more prevalent in Martin County in the 1880s. The Salsbury Mill, located in the Conoho Creek district, in fact, continued to produce plank and scantling and by 1920 thirty-five facilities in Martin County produced rough or planed lumber.⁴⁸

Although one and one-half and single story homes were prevalent, two-story farmhouses remained the most popular rural house form among middle class farmers in the county until the 1930s. Central halls were now standard and rear kitchen/dining ells replaced separate kitchen

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buildings which were often attached to the main house by breezeways. Chimneys, once almost universally placed at the exterior end gables, were often seen at the rear of the house or in the interior.

Like homes of the early nineteenth century, stylistic elements were sparse, particularly in rural areas, and mainly expressed in interior and exterior details. Victorian styles never reached their zenith in exuberant ornamentation or picturesque asymmetry in Martin County. There are only rare examples of classic Queen Anne or Eastlake homes. The same was the case for the Neoclassical and Colonial Revival styles. Elements of Folk Victorian and Colonial Revival styles could often both be seen in the same houses. Homes with Tuscan porch columns and symmetrical facades were often Victorianized with decorative gables with louvered vents and beaded interior woodwork. An example of this combination is the Mack Best House (#21) in the Conoho Creek Historic District. Built around 1910, the one and one-half story house has Tuscan porch supports along with return box cornice, a front cross gable, and a beaded board, central hall interior. Examples of the Folk Victorian style were often seen in Martin County as late as the 1920s. For example, the c. 1920 Manning House (#10) displays a hipped roof accented with metal cresting, a central cross-gable with a diamond-shaped window, and a central hall beaded board interior. Other examples of Folk Victorian styles in the district include the Sycamore Grove Schoolhouse (c. 1900, #30K) which features turned porch supports with brackets and a wide cornice beneath deep eaves and the Hailsip House (#27), also a c. 1900 home. This simple, one-story farmhouse is one-room deep with a rear kitchen ell. It features a center hall plan with an attached hipped roof porch with a beaded board ceiling supported by plain square posts. The only remaining interior details are two different, almost crude wooden mantels, most likely, created by a local carpenter, made from various sizes of stacked strips of lumber. The late nineteenth century alterations to the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks House are the most elaborate examples of Victorian style in the district. The two front gables with two-over-two sash windows are accented with sawn ornaments and the full facade, attached hipped roof porch which replaced the original front gable portico, has elaborate scrolled brackets and once featured a cutwork balustrade.

The Craftsman Bungalow became a popular style in Martin County in the second quarter of the twentieth century. While rural bungalows of middle class farmers were often as stylish as those in towns, the more common representative of this style was the plain, vernacular gable-front bungalow with modest Craftsman appointments, such as exposed roof joists and post-over-pier porch supports. Houses of this type were built in Martin County as late as 1950. Examples of these appear in the Conoho Creek Historic District mainly in form of tenant houses. The Outterbridge-White tenant house (#20) along with Sherrod-Best-Fleming tenant house (#14I), the Waldo House (#17) and the Cherry-Council tenant house (#23) are all front-gable homes built in the 1930s featuring overhanging eaves and exposed joists. All but the Sherrod-Best-Fleming tenant house have porches across the entire main facade and several have post-over-pier supports. The Cherry-Council House (#22) is the

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only non-tenant dwelling constructed with Craftsman details like its hipped roof with attached shed roof porch supported by tapered columns set on piers and overhanging eaves with exposed joists.

Completely intact farm complexes dating from the antebellum period do not exist in Martin County today. There are, however, enough outbuildings remaining to illustrate the variety of domestic and agricultural buildings which once comprised farmsteads. These buildings include smokehouses, kitchens, barns, a cotton house, a carriage house, and slave quarters. Outbuildings from all periods are generally frame although there are examples of plank and log construction. As mentioned above, three of the four hewn plank buildings remaining in Martin County are in the Conoho Creek Historic District--the c. 1850 smokehouse at the Outterbridge-White Farm (#2B) and the kitchen (c. 1810) and smokehouse (c. 1815) at the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks Farm (#30H and #30I).

In the early nineteenth century through the antebellum period, the main dwelling house was generally at the center of a grouping of outbuildings situated around a well-kept yard designated for domestic chores. Buildings and structures here most often included a smokehouse, dairy, kitchen, and well. Agricultural buildings such as stables, barns, cotton houses, carriage houses, and slave quarters were placed further away from the house. One of the most intact antebellum farm complexes in Martin County is the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks Plantation (#30). Directly behind the main house is the c. 1810 hewn plank, one-room, side-gable kitchen which was most likely, also used as quarters for domestic slaves. Just to the east of the house stands the tall, front-gable, hewn plank smokehouse. At some distance from the house, but just off the main entrance drive, is a c. 1830 frame carriage house, the only example of its kind in Martin County. A large one and one-half story stable of the same period once stood next to this building. The only other domestic antebellum outbuilding in the district is the hewn plank smokehouse located on the west side of the Outterbridge-White House (#2B). Just off the rear of the Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House (#4) is a brick-lined well, the only one in the district.

The only remaining slave quarters in Martin County were converted into tenant houses after the Civil War. They were generally side-gable buildings of one or two rooms with gable end chimneys. Quarters were likely arranged in rows near the main house or perhaps, on larger plantations, situated in clusters near fields. Locals remember a row of houses, most likely slave quarters, in front of the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks House near NC 142. There are no slave quarters remaining in the Conoho Creek district, but it is somewhat certain that domestic slaves lived in the kitchen behind the Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks house and possibly in the attics of the original sections of both that home and the Ballard-Hyman-Thomas House (#20).

There are also few antebellum farm buildings remaining in Martin County. Most are corn barns and there is one cotton house. The only antebellum farm building in the Conoho Creek district

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is the c. 1840s mule barn on the Manning Farm property (#10C). While it has been altered to store large farm equipment, it still retains its heavy timber framing, weatherboards, exposed joists, and evidence of whitewash. While the Manning House itself dates to the 1920s, this building may be a remnant of a former house, or it may have been moved here.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century outbuildings, like houses, were constructed of lighter timber framing. Many older buildings were replaced. New advances in technology along with changes in farming practices, namely the production of tobacco and peanuts and the 1921 law requiring animals to be fenced, created entirely new forms of outbuildings and new farm layouts. Farm complexes still maintained a somewhat orderly setting on the landscape particularly prior to 1900, but now outbuildings were located at some distance from the house. Slave quarters, once sited near the main dwelling, were now replaced by tenant houses which were often spread out across the farm. Tobacco barns and packhouses were sometimes located near the fields and tenant homes. Kitchens which were once separate buildings or attached by breezeways were moved inside the home. At the Outterbridge-White House, the White family replaced the freestanding kitchen with a rear kitchen/dining ell in the early twentieth century.

Outbuildings included garages, hog pens, tobacco barns, packhouses, wash houses, equipment storage shelters, potato houses, and the standard smokehouses, wash houses, dairies, and barns. Late nineteenth-century examples of outbuildings in the Conoho Creek district include the weatherboarded c. 1880-90s smokehouses at both the Outterbridge-Everett House and the Sherrod-Best-Fleming House. Both are located just next to the main house. The Sherrod-Best-Fleming House also has the only wash house in the district dating to the 1910s. It, too, is sited near the house next to the farm's well. Another domestic structure dating to c. 1920s is the small, board and batten dairy once located just next to the original Coltrain House at the present Coltrain-Roberson Farm (#8F). Early frame garages sheathed with weatherboards were almost always next to the main house as is the case at the Outterbridge-White Farm, the Outterbridge-Everett Farm, and the Sherrod-Best-Fleming Farm.

Examples of tobacco barns and packhouses include the buildings at the Coltrain-Roberson Farm, the Haislip House, the Manning Farm, and the Cherry-Council House. Tobacco barns used for curing were often located further away from the house and many were sited near tenant houses or along the farm roads which connected the tobacco fields to NC 142. Many of the tobacco barns in the Conoho Creek district are paired with a long, grading shed connecting them. Most of the tobacco barns in the district are frame construction dating from the 1910s to the 1930s.

Along with the farmsteads, the Conoho Creek Historic District also contains two schools and one country store. Built on James Salsbury's land in response to North Carolina's 1839 public education legislation, the Salsbury Schoolhouse (#30M), constructed in 1843, is the only antebellum school remaining in Martin County. This side-gable building has a massive exterior end chimney with

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paved shoulders, a shed roof porch, and a single-pile, center hall floor plan with a rear ell. The Sycamore Grove Schoolhouse (#30K), constructed around 1900, is a typical example of school buildings from this period. With its plain, rectangular form and shallow cornices with box returns, it is typical of schools built during this period, but it is the only school remaining in the county from this period that features such embellishments as the turned porch supports and decorative brackets. Salsbury General Store (#31), built around 1885, is the oldest rural store remaining in Martin County. With its one-room plan and front gable form, it is like many others from this period.

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2. Jonathan Price, Map of North Carolina, 1818 (original in North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina).
3. Martin County Deeds (Williamston: Office of Register of Deeds, Martin County Courthouse), book A, page 389 and book C, page 10.
4. Manning and Booker, vol. 2, p. 171.
5. Martin County Deeds, book F, page 39.
6. Martin County Wills (Williamston: Clerk of Court Office, Martin County Courthouse), book 2, page 66.
7. Martin County Wills, book 2, page 520 and James Salsbury Estate Inventory (Durham: Bryant Bennett papers, Special Collections, Duke University).
8. Bryant Bennett papers.
9. Elizabeth Copeland, The Chronicles of Pitt County (Greenville: Pitt County Historical Society, 1982), p. 324.
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11. Ibid.

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12. Martin County Wills, book 2, page 115.
13. Bryant Bennett papers.
14. Francis M. Manning, Religion and Education in Martin County (Williamston: Enterprise Publishing Company, 1974), p. 152, and Bryant Bennett papers.
15. Bryant Bennett papers, Martin County Deeds, book O, page 368, and U. S. Census, 1850 and 1860.
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18. The Fourteenth Census of the United States: State Compendium (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1925).
19. U. S. Census 1900 and Martin County Land Divisions (Williamston: Clerk of Court Office, Martin County Courthouse), book A, page 201,
20. Manning, p. 239.
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27. Price.
28. North Carolina State Census, 1784-1787 and U. S. Census, 1800, 1810, 1820, and 1830.

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29. Martin County Deeds, book C, page 610 and Martin County Wills, book 2, page 66.
30. U. S. Census, 1850.
31. U. S. Census 1830, 1840, 1950, and 1860 and Manning and Booker, vol. 2, p. 95.
32. Manning and Booker, vol. 2, p. 95.
33. Bryant Bennett papers and U. S. Census, 1860.
34. Bryant Bennett papers; Manning and Booker, vol. 2, p. 108; and U. S. Census, 1850 and 1860.
35. Donna Dodenhoff, Final Report for the Inventory of Historic Sites in Rural Martin County (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Archives and History, December 1993), p. 63-67.
36. U. S. Census, 1880 and Manning and Booker, vol. 2, p. 161.
37. Manning and Booker, vol. 2, p. 99, 111; Perkins and Bacon; and Compendium.
38. Perkins and Bacon.
39. William S. Powell, North Carolina Through Four Centuries (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989), p. 417; U. S. Census, 1880 and 1900; and Dodenhoff.
40. Manning and Booker, vol. 2, p. 98 and U. S. Census, 1870.
41. Tarboro Southerner, 22 August 1895.
42. Manning and Booker, vol. 2, p. 212 and The Enterprise, 15 September 1936.
43. Dodenhoff.
44. Manning and Booker, vol. 2, p. 173 and U. S. Census, 1850.
45. "Account Book of Hamilton Steam Mill," (Greenville: Manning Papers, Special Collections, East Carolina University).
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47. Ibid.

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6. Function or Use:

Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling
secondary structure
Commerce: store
Education: school
Funerary: cemetery
Agriculture/Subsistence:
processing
agricultural field
animal facility
agricultural outbuilding
Landscape: forest
unoccupied land
natural feature
Transportation: rail-related
road-related: vehicular

Current Use:

Domestic: single dwelling
secondary structure
Funerary: cemetery
Agriculture/Subsistence:
processing
storage
Landscape: forest
unoccupied land
natural feature
Transportation: road-related (vehicular)
Vacant/Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Colonial: Georgian
Early Republic: Federal
Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival
Late Victorian: Italianate, Folk Victorian
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

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10. UTM references

HAMILTON QUAD

zone	easting	northing
1. 18	298270	3977740
2. 18	300500	3976700
3. 18	300700	3975960
4. 18	299700	3973700
5. 18	297080	3975180

OAK CITY QUAD

zone	easting	northing
6. 18	295500	3975200
7. 18	294080	3976200
8. 18	294060	3977440
9. 18	297340	3977250

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Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated district are shown on the accompanying Hamilton and Oak City Quad maps. The overlay (exhibit E) shows the configuration of the nominated acreage. The boundaries of the district shown in a heavy line follows natural features on the east, west, and north, and property lines on the south side of the district. The following UTM references identify a parallelogram:

Zone 18

easting northing

1. 298270, 3977740
2. 300500, 3976700
3. 300700, 3975960
4. 299700, 3973700
5. 297080, 3975180
6. 295500, 3975200
7. 294080, 3976200
8. 294060, 3977440
9. 297340, 3977250

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Conoho Creek Historic District reflect the area of Conoho Creek and NC 142 which best reflects the agricultural, social, and architectural context discussed in the nomination, yet includes a minimal number of non-contributing properties. The historic district boundaries encompass an appropriate setting for all the significant buildings, structures, landscapes, natural features, and complexes associated with the nomination's period of significance. (1810-1947).

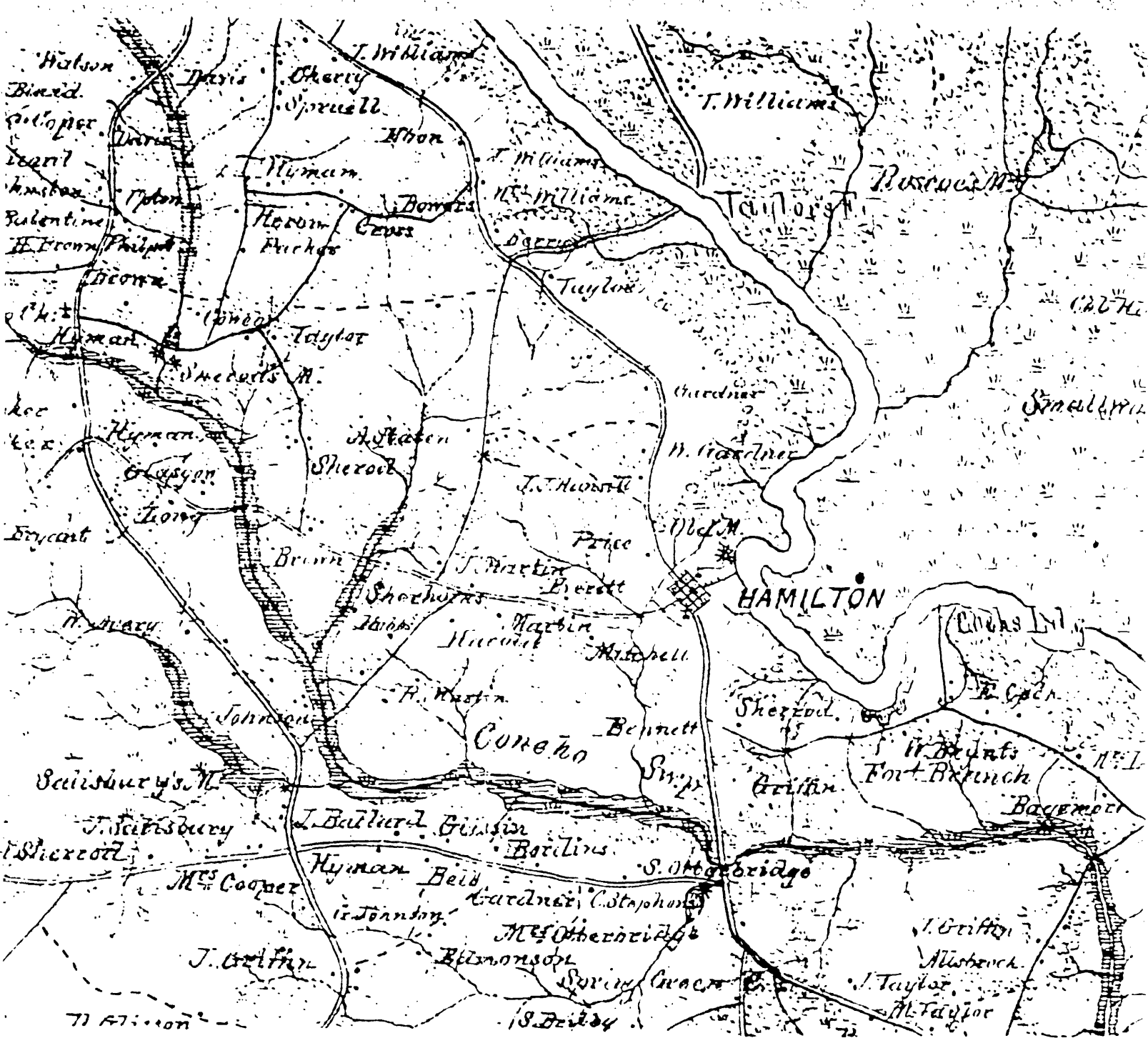
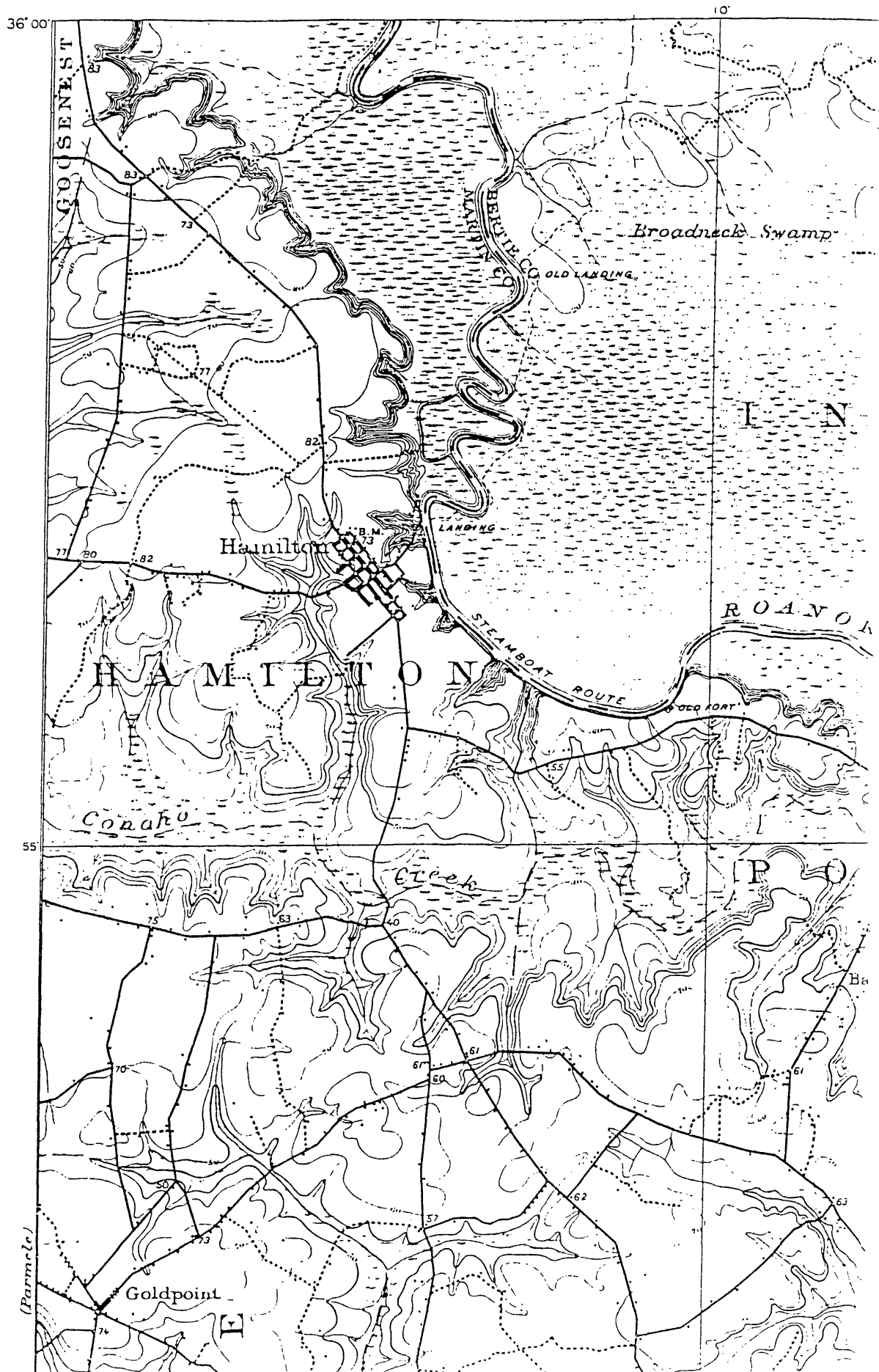


Exhibit A
 Conoho Creek Historic District
 Martin County
 Gilmer's Military Survey between the Neuse and Tar Rivers
 1863



Exhibit B Martin County
USGS map, Williamston Quadrangle
1901



Conoho Creek Historic District
Exhibit C Martin County
USGS map, Parmele Quadrangle
1901

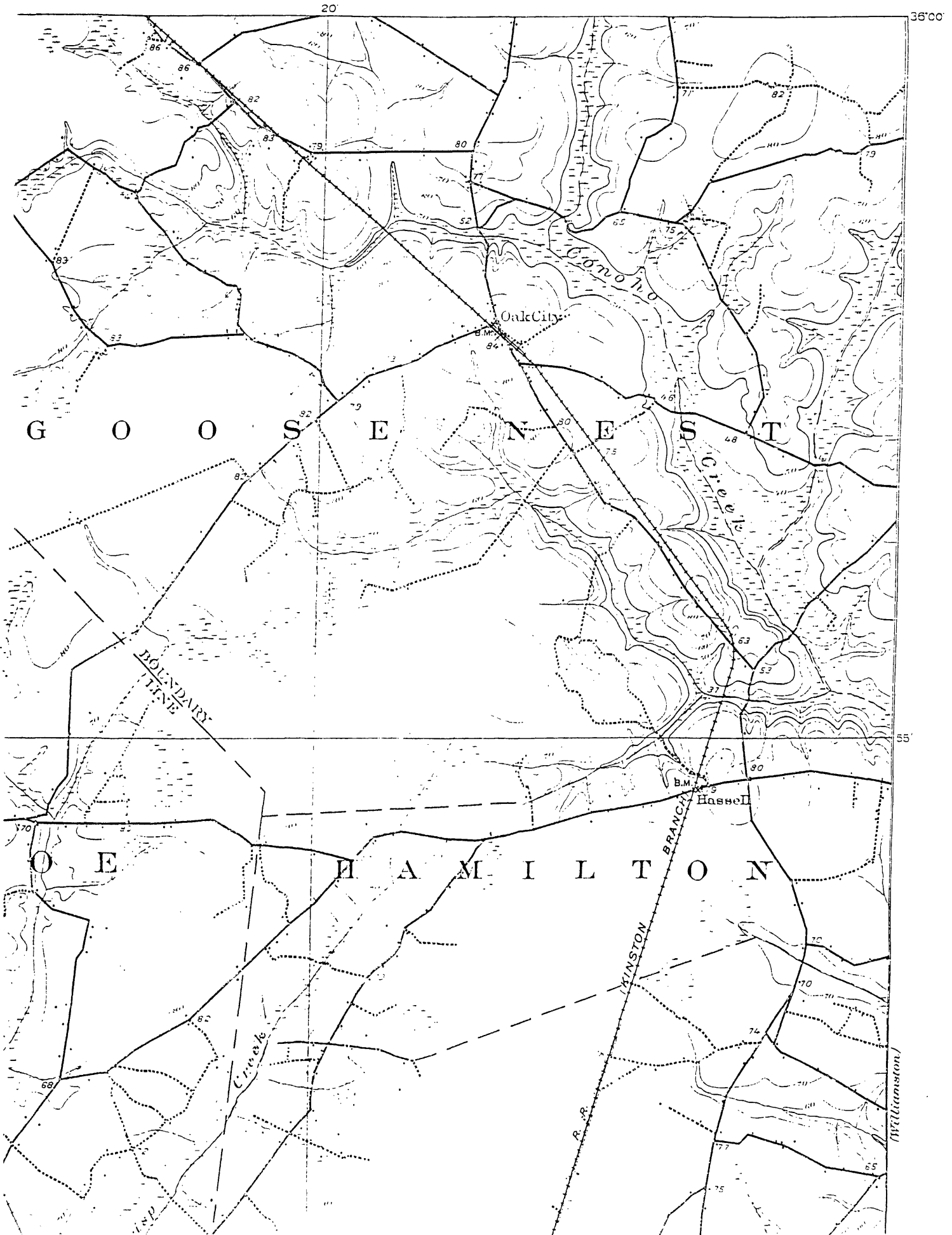


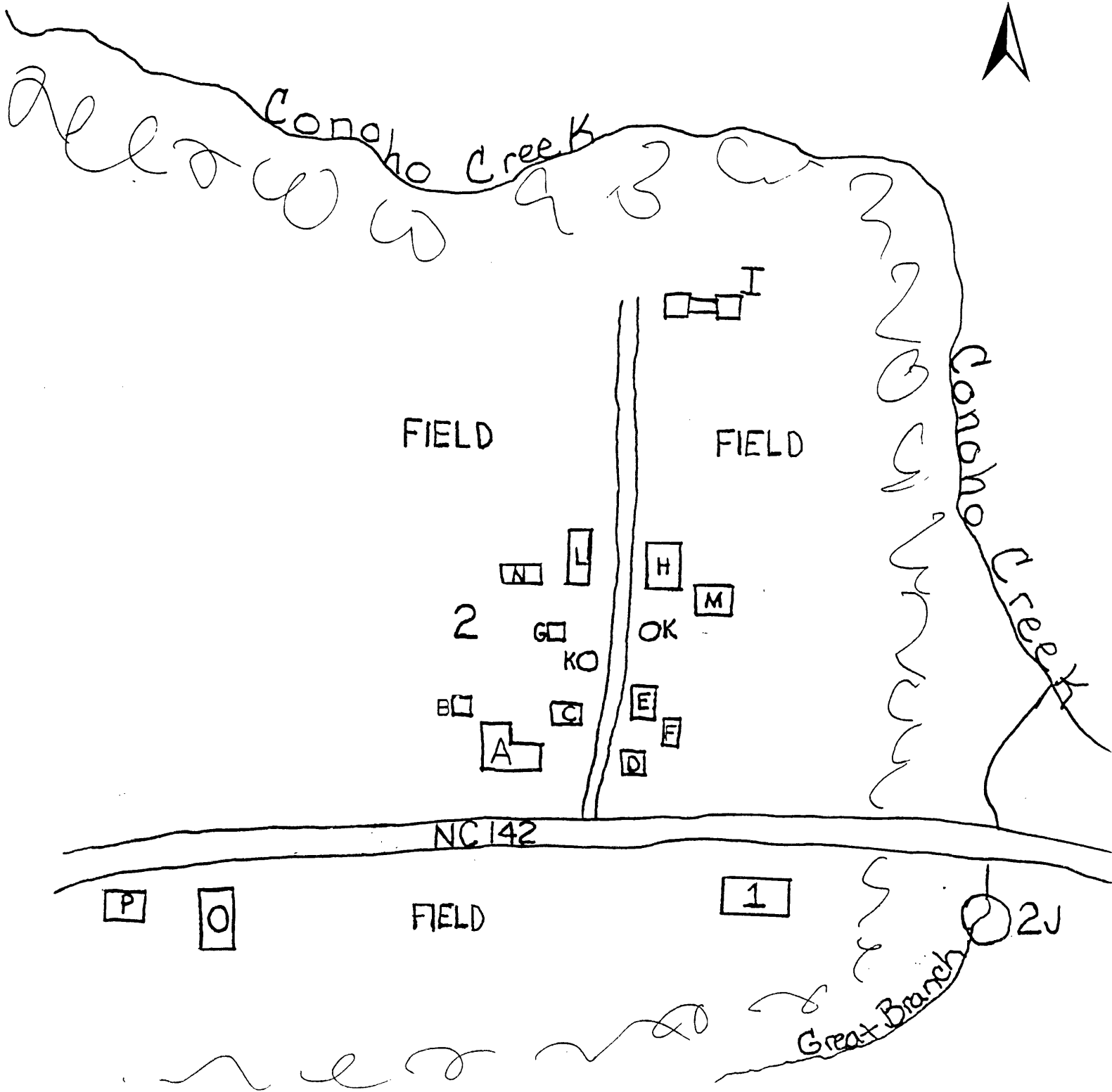
Exhibit D
Soil Survey of Martin County
1928



Sketch Map A
OUTTERBRIDGE-WHITE FARM
(#2)

Not to scale

Conoho Creek Historic District
Martin County

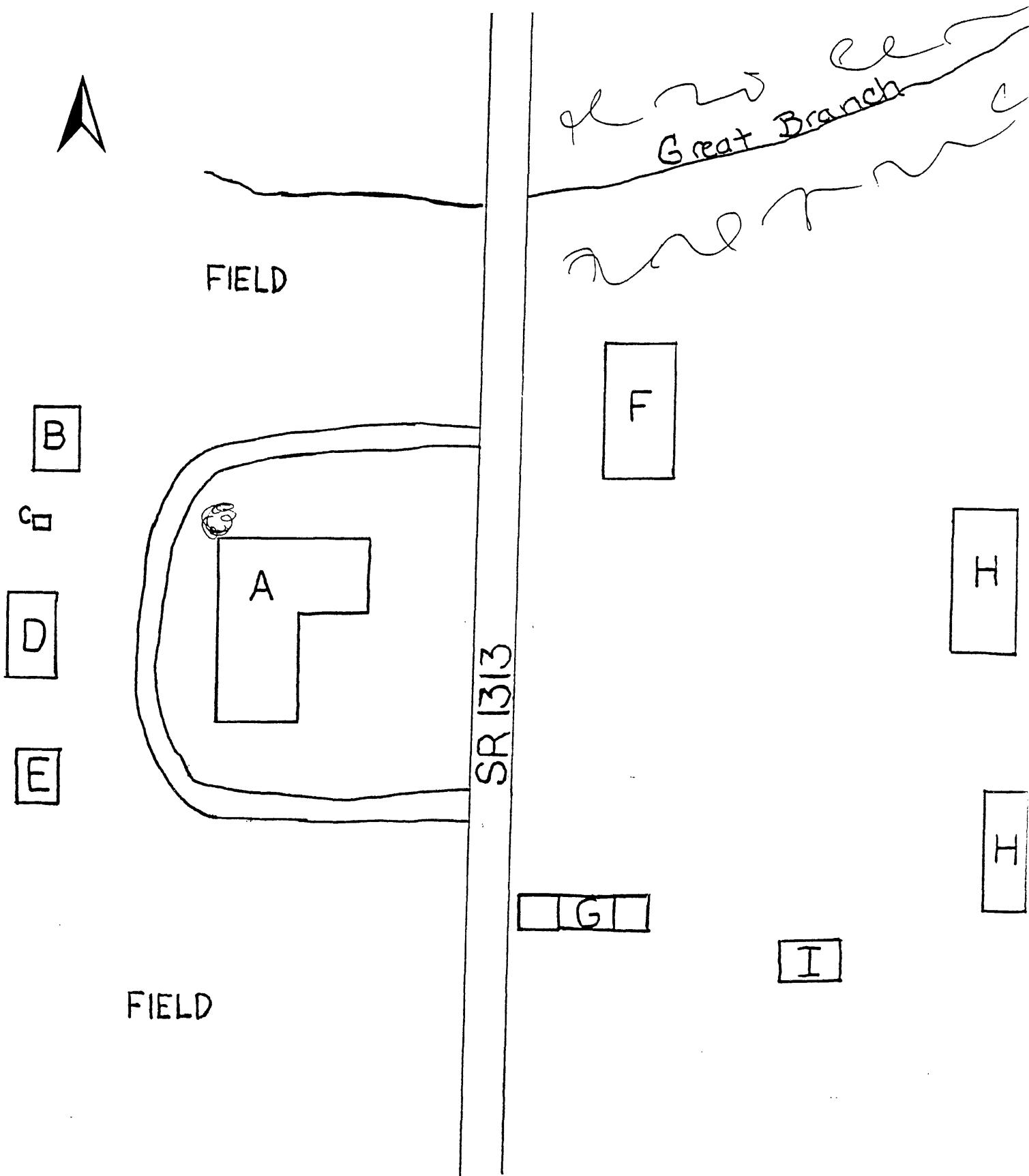


Sketch Map B
OUTTERBRIDGE-EVERETT FARM

(#6)

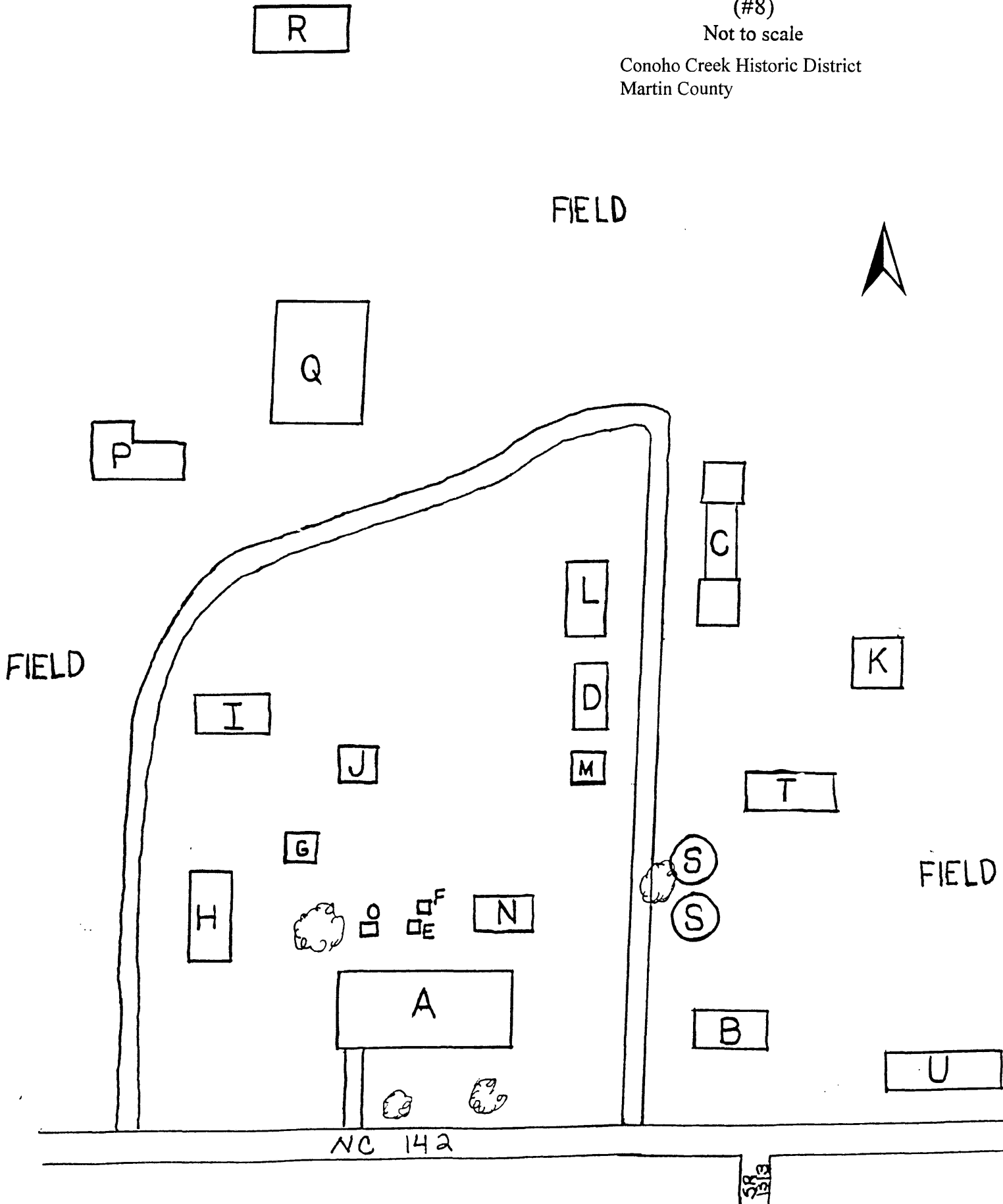
Not to scale

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Martin County



Sketch Map C
COLTRAIN-ROBERSON FARM
(#8)

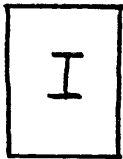
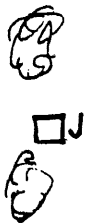
Not to scale
Conoho Creek Historic District
Martin County



Sketch Map D
SHERROD-BEST-FLEMING FARM
(#14)

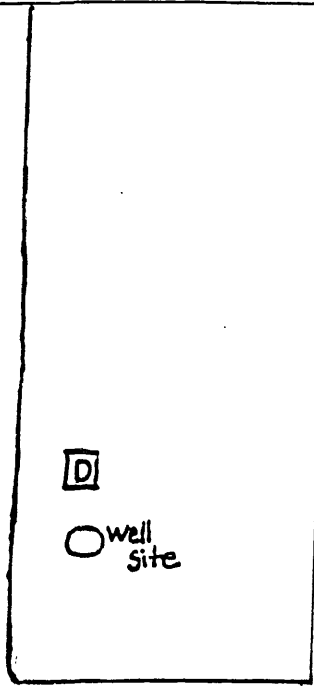
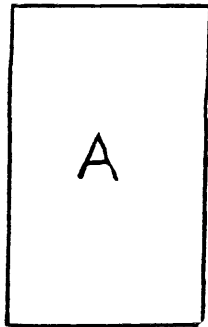
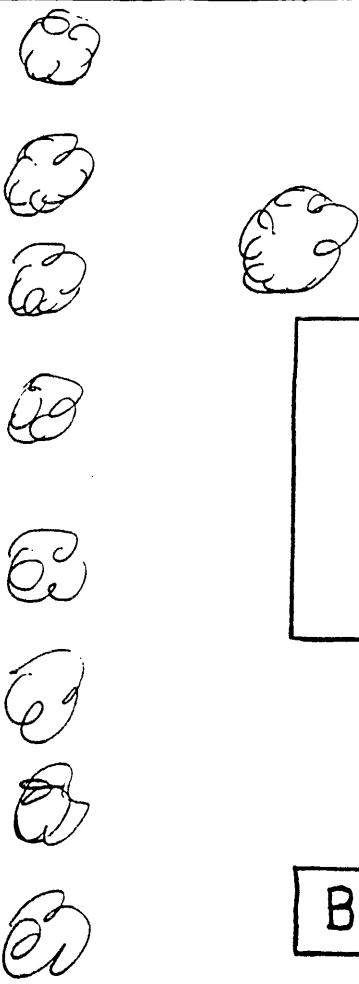
Not to scale

Conoho Creek Historic District
Martin County

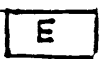


FIELD

NC 142



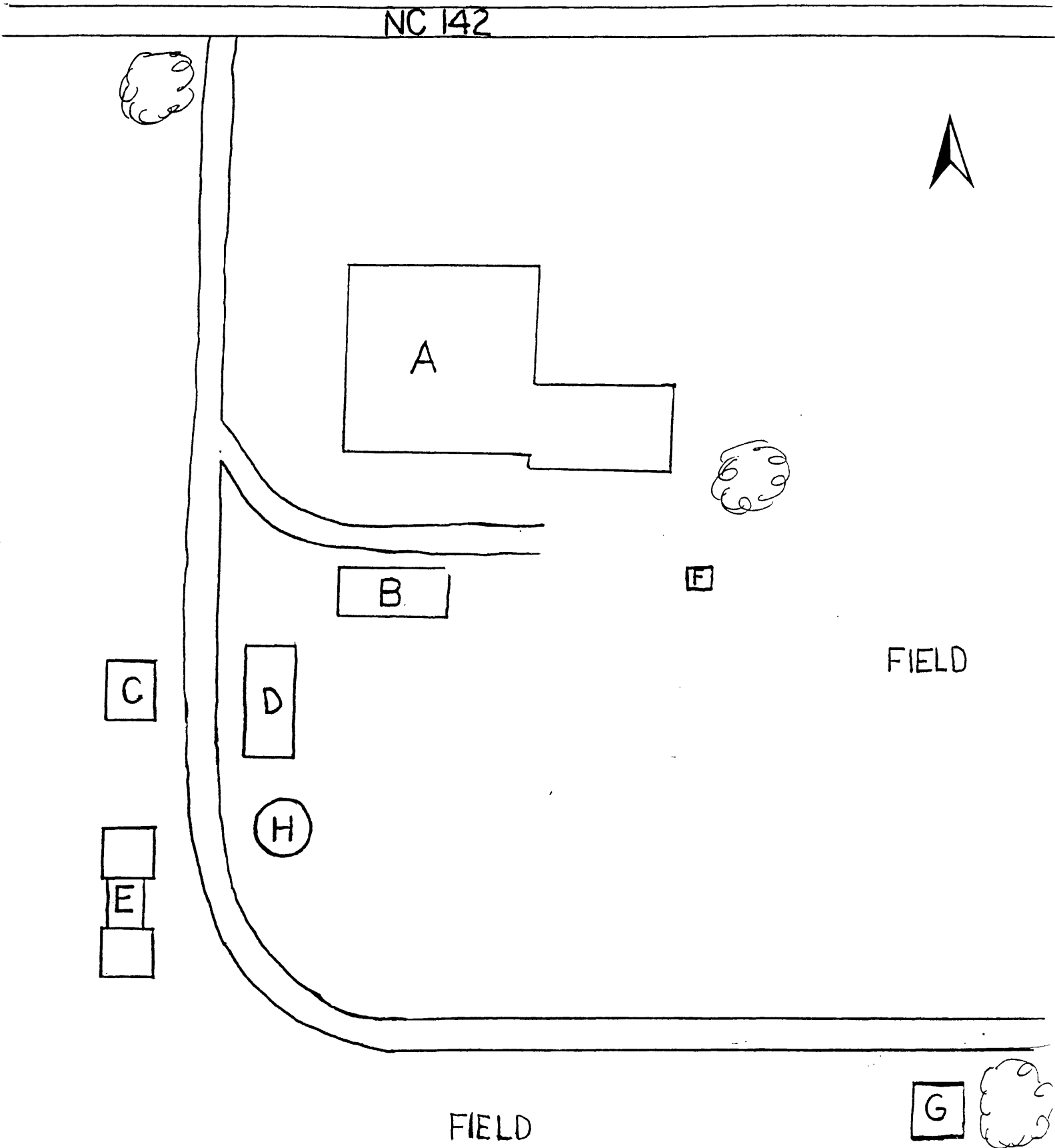
FIELD



FIELD

FIELD

Sketch Map E
BALLARD-HYMAN-THOMAS FARM
(#20)
Not to scale
Conoho Creek Historic District
Martin County





J

E

E

I

G

D

F

H

A

C

B

Sketch Map F
**BALLARD-SALSBURY-EUBANKS
PLANTATION**

(#30)

Not to scale

Conoho Creek Historic District
Martin County

CONOHO CREEK



L

M

K

NC 142

31

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Conoho Creek Historic District
Martin County, North Carolina

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Photographs for Conoho Creek Historic District:

All photographs were taken by Jennifer B. Langdale, consultant for the Conoho Creek Historic District project. Negatives are housed at the North Carolina Division of Archives and History at 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC. In the following list, the photograph number is given first. The number following the name of the property is its identification number and letter within the inventory list.

1. Mill site on Outterbridge-White Farm (#2J): November 1996; negative #N.97-6-993.
2. Outterbridge-Briley-Purvis House (#4): November 1996; negative #N. 97.6.969; W view from SR 1313 including main dwelling, mobile home, and packhouse.
3. Outterbridge-Everett Farm (#6): November 1996; negative #N.97.6.970; N view from NC 142 including main dwelling, tobacco barn, smokehouse, and Outterbridge-Everett tenant house.
4. Manning Farm tobacco barns (#10D): November 1996; negative #N.97.6.973; S view showing fields and treeline on Conoho Creek.
5. Sherrod-Best-Fleming Farm (#14): October 1996; negative #N.97.6.976; N view including main dwelling and garage.
6. Waldo Tenant House (#17): November 1996; negative #N.97.6.982; SW view from NC 142 including main dwelling, fields, tobacco barns, and tenant house.
7. Ballard-Hyman-Thomas Farm (#20): November 1996; negative #N.97.6.980; E view from NC 142 including main dwelling, packhouse, tobacco barns, mule stable, and equipment storage shelter.
8. Cherry-Council House (#22): November 1996; negative #N.97.6.979; S view from NC 142 including main dwelling and packhouse.
9. Butler House (#26): September 1996; negative #N.97.6.983; non-contributing; S view from NC 142.
10. Ballard-Salsbury-Eubanks Plantation (#30): October 1996; negative #N.97.6.987; E view including main dwelling, kitchen, smokehouse, and Hassell jail.